

## Code of Conduct

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### I. Introduction

The Board of Education (~~“board”~~) is committed to providing a safe, ~~and~~ orderly and supportive school environment where all individuals are treated with respect and students may receive and School District personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference.~~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.

~~The district~~The School District has a longstanding set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

~~The board~~The Board of Education recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, ~~the board~~the Board of Education adopts this code of conduct (“code”).

~~Unless otherwise indicated, this code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function.~~

Effective and engaging instruction and positive behavioral support are the foundations of a positive school climate. School teachers, administrators, and other staff are encouraged to set high expectations for student success, build positive relationships with students, as well as teach and model appropriate behaviors for success. Modeling respectful, positive behavior is especially critical during disciplinary interventions. All adults—teachers, principals, administrators, school staff, parents, and the larger community—have an obligation to help students become individuals who lead productive lives by modeling positive behaviors and cultivating those behaviors in students.

Student discipline and support policies and practices will be implemented in a manner which is fair and equitable, respectful, and based on trust among administration, staff, students, and families. In addition, student discipline and support policies and practices will hold all individuals accountable and, wherever possible, be restorative and solutions based. This will help students:

- Learn from their mistakes;
- Understand why their behavior was unacceptable;
- Acknowledge the harm they caused or the negative impact of their actions;
- Understand what they could have done differently;
- Take responsibility for their actions;

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- Learn strategies that promote positive interactions; and
- Understand that further consequences and/or interventions will be implemented if their unacceptable behavior persists.

Unless otherwise indicated, this code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function.

**II. Definitions**

For purposes of this code, the following definitions apply.

“Bullying” or “Harassment” means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse, including, but not limited to, cyberbullying, that (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical wellbeing; or (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for their physical safety; or (c) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or (d) occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. For purposes of this definition the term “threats, intimidation or abuse” will include verbal and non-verbal actions. Acts of bullying and harassment that are prohibited include but are not limited to those acts based on a person’s actual or perceived age, race, color, military status, reproductive health decisions, predisposing genetics characteristics, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, (including gender identity and expression) or sex.

~~“Bullying” is a hostile activity which harms or induces fear through the threat of further aggression and/or creates terror. This code uses the term bullying (which is usually subsumed under the term “harassment”) to describe a range of misbehaviors including, but not limited to, harassment, hazing, intimidation or discrimination.~~

“Cyberbullying” means bullying as defined above, through any form of electronic communication.

“Disability” means (a) a physical, mental or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, genetic or neurological conditions which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques or (b) a record of such an impairment or (c) a condition regarded by others as such an impairment, provided, however, that in all provisions of this article dealing with employment, the term shall/will be limited to disabilities which, upon the provision of reasonable accommodations, do not prevent the complainant from performing in a reasonable manner the activities involved in the job or occupation sought or held. (N.Y. Executive Law §292.21)

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“Discrimination” is the act of denying rights, benefits, justice, equitable treatment or access to an individual or to a group of people because of the group, class or category to which that person belongs.

“Disruptive student” means an elementary or secondary student under the age of 21 who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher’s authority over the classroom.

“Employee” means any person receiving compensation from a ~~school district~~School District or employee of a contracted service provider or worker placed within the school under a public assistance employment program, pursuant to title nine-B of article five of the social services law, and consistent with the provisions of such title for the provision of services to such district, its students or employees, directly or through contract, whereby such services performed by such person involve direct student contact. (N.Y. Education Law §1125.3).

“Gender” means actual or perceived sex, and a person’s gender identity or expression. (N.Y. Education Law §11.6).

“Gender Identity is one’s self-conception as being male or female, as distinguished from actual biological sex or sex assigned at birth. (N.Y. Executive Law §292.35)

“Gender Expression” is the manner in which a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through behavior, clothing, hairstyle, activities, voice or mannerisms. (N.Y. Executive Law §292.35)

~~“Harassment under the Dignity Act” means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits or mental, emotional or physical well being; or conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; such conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse includes but is not limited to conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) or sex. (N.Y. Education Law §11.7).~~

“Hazing” is an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment which produces public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule or creates a situation where public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule is likely to occur. (N.Y. Penal Law §120.16)

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“Restorative Practice” means an alternative consequence other than suspension that could be issued to a student for a code of conduct violation. Examples of restorative practices can include but are not limited to, mediation, counseling, community service, etc. The issuance of a restorative practice does not substitute a potential suspension, and can only be given to the student if agreed to by the student and/or parent/guardian.

“Parent” means parent, guardian or person in parental relation to a student.

“School Bus” means every motor vehicle a) owned by a public or governmental agency or private school and operated for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other person acting in a supervisory capacity, to or from school or school activities, or b) privately owned and operated-for-compensation for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity to or from school or school activities. (N.Y. Vehicle and Traffic Law § 142) .

“School function” means any school sponsored extracurricular event or activity. (N.Y. Education Law §11.2).

“School property” means in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school, or in or on a school bus, as defined in Vehicle and Traffic Law §142. (N.Y. Education Law §11.1).

“Sexual orientation” means actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality or bisexuality. (N.Y. Education Law §11.5).

“Violent student” means a student under the age of 21 who:

1. Commits an act of violence upon a school employee, or attempts to do so;
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2. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at the school function, or attempts to do so;
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3. Possesses, while on school property or at a school function, a weapon;
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4. Displays, while on school property or at a school function, what appears to be a weapon;
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5. Threatens, while on school property or at a school function, to use a weapon or threatens to perform bodily harm;
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6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function; or

7. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys School District property.

“Weapon” means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. §921 for purposes of the Gun Free Schools Act. It also means any other gun, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death when used to cause physical injury or death.

**III. Student Rights and Responsibilities****A. Student Rights**

1. participate in all School District activities on an equal basis regardless of their actual or perceived age, race, weight, color, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, gender, gender identity and expression, military status, reproductive health decisions, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status, domestic violence status, sex, sexual orientation or disability.

2. be respected as an individual and treated fairly and with dignity by other students and school staff.

3. express one’s opinions, either verbally or in writing, as long as it does not consist of speech that is hateful, intolerant or otherwise violates this Code.

4. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

5. Have access to school policies, regulations and rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

~~The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under federal and state law and district policy. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and supportive school environment, all district students have the right to:~~

- ~~1. Take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of actual or perceived race, weight, color, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, gender or sexual orientation or disability.~~
- ~~2. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.~~

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3. ~~Access school policies, regulations, and rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.~~
4. ~~Grow, develop, and learn in a safe school environment.~~

**B. Student Responsibilities**

All ~~School district~~ District students have the responsibility to:

1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.
2. Be familiar with and abide by all School District policies, rules and regulations dealing with student conduct.
3. Attend school every day unless they are legally excused and be in class, on time, and prepared to learn.
4. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
5. React to direction given by teachers, administrators, and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
6. Use a respectful tone of voice and body language, and listen when others are speaking
7. Ask questions when they do not understand.
8. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline.
9. Dress for school and school functions in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
10. Accept responsibility for their actions.
11. Conduct themselves as representative of the School District when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.
12. Work to develop skills to manage their emotions and reactions and resolve conflict with others

**IV. Essential Partners**

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~~—A.~~ A. All Essential Partners

All essential partners are expected to:

1. maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived age, race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, military status, reproductive health decisions, marital status, predisposing genetic characteristics, disability, domestic violence status, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression), or sex (including gender identity), which will strengthen students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn;

2. promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment that supports active teaching and learning for all students regardless of actual or perceived age, race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, military status, reproductive health decisions, marital status, domestic violence status or sex or predisposing genetic characteristics;

3. know school policies and rules;

4. address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all individuals;

5. encourage students to benefit from the curriculum and extracurricular programs;

6. be familiar with the Code of Conduct;

7. help students understand the School District's expectations for maintaining a safe, orderly environment;

8. support student participation in appropriate extracurricular activities;

9. report and encourage the report of rumors of threats of physical injury or damage to property to school officials;

10. refrain from engaging in activities or displaying behaviors that set a poor example while in the supervision of students including smoking, or the use of other tobacco/cannabinoid products, using any controlled substance, consuming alcohol, or using inappropriate language. Teachers should always be mindful of the language contained in the New York State Code of Ethics for Educators;

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11. maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal and state law;
12. participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces;
13. address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function;
14. address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students and staff; and
15. encourage and be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process.

**B. Parents/Persons in Parental Relation**

All parents/persons in parental relation are expected to:

1. Recognize that the education of their child(ren) is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community and collaborate with ~~the district~~the School District to improve their child's educational opportunities.
2. Send their children to school ready to participate and learn.
3. Ensure their children attend school regularly and on time.
4. Ensure absences are legal and excused.
5. Insist their children be dressed and groomed in a manner consistent with the student dress code.
6. Help their children understand that in a democratic society appropriate rules are required to maintain a safe, orderly environment.
7. Know school rules and help their children understand them so that their children can help create a safe, supportive school environment.
8. Convey to their children a supportive and respectful attitude toward education and ~~the district~~the School District.
9. Build positive, constructive relationships with teachers, other parents and their children's friends.



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10. Help their children deal effectively with peer pressure.
11. Inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance.
12. ~~Provide a place~~Create an environment for study and ensure homework assignments are completed.
13. tell school officials about any concerns or complaints in a respectful and timely manner;
14. be respectful and considerate to staff, other parents/persons in parental relation, and students in all interpersonal communications on school property and during school hours, including school events or meetings; and,
15. encourage and be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process.

**BC. Teachers**

All ~~School district~~District teachers are expected to:

1. Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity, which will strengthen students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn.
2. Be prepared to teach.
3. Demonstrate interest in teaching and concern for student achievement.
4. Know school policies and rules, and enforce them in a fair and consistent manner.
5. Communicate regularly with students, parents/guardians and other teachers concerning growth achievement and school expectations.
6. Communicate to students and parents/guardians:
  - a. Course objectives and requirements
  - b. Marking/grading procedures
  - c. Assignment deadlines
  - d. Expectation for students
  - e. Classroom discipline plan; and,

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7. encourage and be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process.

8. Communicate regularly with students, parents and other teachers concerning growth and achievement.

9. Participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces, in conformity with the Taylor Law.

10. Address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.

11. Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students in the school or classroom setting.

**CD. School CounselorsMental Health Staff (counselors, psychologists, social workers)**

1. Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, ~~gender or~~gender (identity or expression), or sex.

2. Assist students in coping with peer pressure and emerging personal, social and emotional problems.

3. Initiate meetings with relevant essential partners including students, teachers, and administrators, as necessary;

4. ~~Initiate teacher/student/counselor conferences and parent/teacher/student/counselor conferences, as necessary, as a way to resolve problems.~~

5. Regularly review with students their educational progress and career plans.

6. Maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal and state law.

7. Provide information to assist students with career planning.

8. Encourage students to benefit from the curriculum and extracurricular programs.

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9. Make known to students and families the resources in the community that are available to meet their needs.
10. Participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces.
11. Address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.
12. Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students.
13. Facilitate resolution of conflicts through a restorative process.

**DE. Other School Personnel**

1. Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, sex.
2. Maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal and state law.
3. Be familiar with the code.
4. Help children understand ~~the district~~ the School District's expectations for maintaining a safe, orderly environment.
5. Participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces.
6. Address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.
7. Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students.

**FE. Principals/Administrators**

1. Promote a safe, orderly, caring, and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, ~~gender or~~ gender (identity or expression), or sex.

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2. Ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to communicate regularly with the principal or other building administrators, ensuring that students and staff have the opportunity to approach the principal with issues and concerns.

3. Maintain confidentiality to the extent possible in accordance with federal and state law.

4. Evaluate on a regular basis all instructional programs to ensure infusion of civility education in the curriculum.

5. Support the development of and student participation in appropriate extracurricular activities.

6. Provide support in the development of the code, when called upon. Disseminate the code and anti-harassment policies.

7. Be responsible for enforcing the code and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.

8. Participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces.

9. Address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.

10. Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students and staff.

11. Investigate building-level complaints of bullying and/or harassment.

12. Encourage and be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process.

**FG. The Dignity Act Coordinator(s) (DASA Coordinator)**

According to the Dignity for all Students Act ("DASA"), at least one staff member trained in respect of differences among each of the enumerated classes must be available to each school building and at least one administrative staff person must be responsible for investigating incidents of harassment and discrimination.

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The DASA Coordinator should be responsible for coordinating and implementing the district anti-bullying policy and regulations in each school building, including but not limited to coordination of professional development for staff members, coordination of the complaint process, and management of the Dignity for All Students Act's civility curriculum components.

In accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, all School District employees are additionally responsible to: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) or sex.
2. Oversee and coordinate the work of ~~the district~~ the School District-wide and building-level bullying prevention committees.
3. Identify curricular resources that support infusing civility in classroom instruction and classroom management; and provide guidance to staff as to how to access and implement those resources.
4. Along with the Professional Development Committee, coordinate training in support of the bullying prevention committee.
5. Be responsible for monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of ~~the district~~ the School District's bullying prevention policy.
6. Address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.
7. Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students and staff.
8. Investigate building-level complaints of bullying and/or harassment when designated by a building principal.

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**GH. Superintendent of Schools**

1. Promote a safe, orderly, caring, and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, ~~gender or~~ gender (identity or expression), or sex.

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2. Inform the Board about educational trends relating to student discipline.
3. Review with district administrators the policies of ~~the board~~the Board of Education of education and state and federal laws relating to school operations and management.
4. Maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal and state law.
5. Work to create instructional programs that minimize incidents of misconduct and are sensitive to student and teacher needs.
6. Work with district administrators in enforcing the code and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.
7. Participate in school-wide efforts to provide adequate supervision in all school spaces.
8. Address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.
9. Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students and staff.
10. Investigate, or appoint a designee to investigate, complaints of bullying and/or harassment that are appealed to the Superintendent of Schools following an initial investigation by the building principal or the building principal's designee.
11. encourage and be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process.

**HI. Board of Education**

1. Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, ~~gender or~~gender (identity or expression), or sex.
2. Maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal and state law.
3. Develop and recommend a budget that provides programs and activities that support achievement of the goals of the code.

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4. Collaborate with student, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel to develop a code that clearly defines expectations for the conduct of students, district personnel and visitors on school property and at school functions.

5. Adopt and review at least annually ~~the district~~the School District's code to evaluate the code's effectiveness and the fairness and consistency of its implementation.

6. Lead by example by conducting board meetings in a professional, respectful, courteous manner.

7. Address issues of harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee, or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.

8. Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students and staff.

9. Conduct a hearing regarding a complaint of bullying and/or harassment that is appealed to ~~the board~~the Board of Education after an investigation by the building principal or building principal's designee and the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

10. Encourage and be open to active participation in resolving conflicts through a restorative process.

**V. Student Dress Code**

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. These expectations are designed to aid students in character development by cultivating their respect for self and others. Students and parents/persons in parental relation— have the responsibility of being familiar with the ~~school~~School district's~~District's~~ dress code and presenting the student for attendance at school in acceptable and age appropriate dress and appearance.

Teachers and all other ~~School D~~School district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of age appropriate appearance in the school setting.

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1. Clothing, jewelry and footwear should be sensible, safe and not expose any student to danger including the student ~~him/herself~~themselves. Footwear must be worn at all times for safety reasons.

2. All attire should be worn in good taste and not be distracting or disruptive to the educational process. Brief garments and transparent clothing are not proper attire for the classroom setting.

3. The wearing of clothes or any attire that depicts violence of any nature or that signifies gang affiliation is strictly prohibited. Attire that promotes or displays use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or sexual innuendo is strictly prohibited as well.

4. Any attire that is offensive in regard to race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or physical or mental disability is prohibited as well as attire that displays that which may be interpreted as vulgar, obscene or libelous.

5. Students are required to wear protective gear/clothing in certain classes as deemed necessary and appropriate by staff for the student's own safety and well-being (as in labs, technology classes, family and consumer science classes, physical education, etc.).

Individual building practices, consistent with the above dress code policy, ~~shall~~will be distributed by each school's administration in order to inform all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who violate the student dress code ~~shall~~will be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so ~~shall~~will be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code ~~shall~~will be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension.

**VI. Prohibited Student Conduct**

~~The board~~The Board of Education expects all students 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 board~~The Board of Education, administration and faculty of the Smithtown Central School District believes that there are several principles that guide behavior both in school and in society. First and foremost is the belief that individuals are responsible for



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their own actions; they have the ability to make choices and are therefore accountable for them. Just as rewards are one end product of positive acceptable actions, unacceptable actions result in consequences. This code creates a safe, predictable educational environment while preparing students to be responsible members of the community. A second guiding principle of this code is to assure the academic, social, personal, and emotional success of all the students in our schools. Students' actions should reflect respect for themselves, their peers, those who guide them in school, their families and society in general.

—To these ends students are encouraged to identify and develop their own unique attitudes, abilities, and interests within the bounds set forth in this code. They must learn to work with others and share with them the privileges and responsibilities of good citizenship. In order to uphold the integrity of the disciplinary process, this code is designed to maintain students' dignity while treating infractions in a consistent manner. It is impossible, however to create examples that are all-inclusive. Therefore, each situation will be evaluated thoroughly by educational staff and administrative discretion will be applied appropriately.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

**A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct may include but are not limited to:**

1. Running in hallways.
2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
7. Using drones or other surveillance devices on or above School Property except as authorized by school personnel with the permission of the Superintendent of Schools or their designee.
8. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of ~~the district~~the School District's acceptable use policy. This also includes misuse of artificial intelligence, including but not limited to using artificial intelligence to create images of other students.

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**B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct may include but are not limited to:**

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect
2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission
3. ~~Not reporting~~failing to attend to detention when assigned
4. failing to vacate school grounds at the conclusion of school authorized activities (e.g. dance, sporting event).
5. being in an unauthorized area without permission.

**C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct may include but are not limited to:**

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school personnel in charge of students.
2. Inappropriate public sexual behavior.
3. Display or use of personal electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, ~~laptops~~portable speakers or portable music players, digital cameras, in a manner that is in violation of School district-District policy.
4. Falsely reporting a bomb threat. (Please note: Falsely reporting a bomb threat is a felony and may result in criminal prosecution.)
5. Conduct disruptive of the educational process or that substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

**D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct may include but are not limited to:**

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.
2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatening to use any weapon.
6. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.

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7. Intentionally damaging or destroying ~~school—district~~School District property.

**E. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, physical or mental health, morals, or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct may include but are not limited to:**

1. Subjecting other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function, to danger by recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury.

2. Lying to school personnel.

3. Stealing or attempting to steal the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.

4. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.

5. Discrimination, which includes using race, color, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, sex, gender (identity and expression), sexual orientation, weight or disability to deny rights, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to others.

6. Harassment, or bullying includes a sufficiently severe action or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing, demeaning or threatening. Harassment is also the creation of a hostile environment. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that, put an individual in fear of bodily harm.

7. Bullying, which may be a hostile activity which harms or induces fear through the threat of further aggression and/or creates terror. Hazing, which includes an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment

8. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.

9. Smoking and/or possessing a cigarette of any kind including an electronic cigarette, any type of vaporizer, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.

10. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana (including Synthetic Cannabinoids), cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."

11. Possessing, using, and/or sharing drug paraphernalia.

12. Inappropriately using, possessing or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

13. Gambling.

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14. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
15. Possessing or distributing pornographic material.
16. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
17. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
18. selling, using or possessing fireworks or other dangerous items.
19. intentionally hiding evidence of an illegal act or school violation.
20. creating a hazardous or physically offensive condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose.

**F. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus.** It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting or any other conduct in violation of the Code of Conduct will not be tolerated.

**G. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct may include but are not limited to:**

1. Plagiarism.
2. Cheating.
3. Copying.
4. Altering records.
5. Altering the work of others without permission
6. Using artificial intelligence without permission
7. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

**H. Engage in off-campus misconduct that interferes with, or can reasonably be expected to substantially disrupt the education process in the school or at a school function.** Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Cyberbullying (i.e., inflicting willful harm through the use of any electronic and/or video means).
2. Threatening or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or internet.
3. Using message boards or websites to convey threats, derogatory comments or post pornographic or other inappropriate pictures of students or school personnel.
4. Using artificial intelligence to create images of students and/or distribute said images to other students.

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**I. Alcohol Detection Guidelines**

The Smithtown Central School District in compliance with existing BOE School Policy: Section 5290 (Alcohol Detection) and Section 5300 – 12 (Code of Conduct - Student Searches and Interrogations) is committed to discouraging and eliminating use of alcohol by students attending school functions or activities. Students for whom there is a reasonable suspicion of the use of alcohol may be required to submit to alcohol detection.

To ensure the safety and welfare of students, all school officials responsible for making such a determination are required to participate in the Drug Impairment Training for Education Professionals (DITEP). The DITEP program consists of two days of professional development provided by the Suffolk County Police Department at the request of the District. The DITEP program covers the following:

- Drugs in Society
- Policy, Procedures and Rules
- Overview of Alcohol Drug Identification; Categories, Effects and Assessment Process
- Eye Examinations
- Vital Signs
- Divided Attention Tests
- Poly Drugs
- Contacting Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

The school officials tasked with performing alcohol detection include, but are not limited to: Principals, Assistant Principals, Nurses, Counselors, Social Workers and Security.

**Procedure for Alcohol Detection**

In the event a student or their guest(s) presents with indications of alcohol impairment as described in the DITEP program, school officials will conduct a series of assessments to confirm suspicions. These assessments include physical examinations as described in the DITEP program, and may include the use of an Alcohol Detection Device.

The determination of reasonable suspicion will be based on, but not limited to, any one or more of the following indicators:

- Flushed face
- Red, watery, glassy or bloodshot eyes
- Odor of alcohol on breath, clothing or person
- Slurred speech/unable to follow instructions

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- Failure to comprehend questions
- Impaired motor skills (i.e. unsteady feet, swaying, etc.)
- Being combative, argumentative or inordinately jovial while talking
- Lack of awareness in regards to time and place
- Vomiting
- Found in possession of product containing alcohol

If a school official has reasonable suspicion that a student has consumed alcohol, based on one or more of the above indicators or other reasonable indicators, the school official ~~shall~~will request the student submit to a series of assessments as outlined by the DITEP training program. These assessments ~~shall~~will be administered privately by the trained and certified school official in the presence of a witness. Any use of an alcohol detection device must be done after a minimum of fifteen minutes has elapsed from any form of consumption including but not limited to: eating, drinking, use of mouthwash, breath sprays, and/or chewing gum.

*If an alcohol detection device is used and the test is positive*, unless the student verbally admits alcohol consumption, the school official ~~shall~~will conduct a confirmation test waiting at least fifteen minutes from the first test. If the student admits consuming or the second test results are positive the school official will:

1. Notify the student's parent or guardian and request that the student be returned home under parental supervision
2. Contact emergency medical help if the student is assessed to be at risk for alcohol poisoning and/or in need of medical assistance.

Pursuant to New York State Law, disciplinary action will be taken as indicated by Board Policy 5300 (Code of Conduct), and the administrative regulations outlined in the student handbook. ~~The district~~The School District administration ~~shall~~will retain positive test records only during the student's enrollment in Smithtown Central School District.

*If an alcohol detection device is used and the test is negative*, the student may receive permission to resume unrestricted activity providing the school official does not suspect the use of other drugs and/or other disciplinary rules do not apply to the student's untoward behavior. If the school official suspects the use of other drugs as informed by the DITEP program or conduct himself/herself in an appropriate manner, the student will be retained for his/her safety. The school official will contact the student's parent or guardian, describe the situation and request that the student be returned home for disciplinary purposes and/or medical evaluation.

*If a student refuses to submit to an alcohol detection device test*, the student will be deemed to have tested positive and will be subject to all disciplinary measures as

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defined by Board Policy 5300 (Code of Conduct). The school official will notify parent(s) or guardian(s) and request that the student be returned home.

Records of students passing, failing or refusing to take an alcohol detection device test as outlined above will be maintained by the District using an Alcohol Detection Device Event Record form but will not be considered a part of the student's permanent academic record. Such records may be used by school personnel only to the extent necessary to administer this policy and the Code of Conduct for before, during and/or after the school day or at school related/sponsored activities. The records and information contained therein ~~shall~~will not otherwise be released to anyone.

J. Using any direct or indirect communications to convey threats, derogatory comments or post pornographic pictures of students or school personnel.

K. Engage in misconduct while using School District technology or using technology on School District property. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:

1. violating any law.
2. displaying, performing, sending, receiving, or storing any content that is obscene, inappropriate, offensive, or otherwise objectionable, even if the material or its dissemination is lawful.
3. harassing any person or advocating or encouraging violence of any kind against any person, entity or government.
4. infringing, violating or misappropriating another's rights.
5. obtaining unauthorized access to, or interfering by any means with, any user, system, network, service or account, including evasion of filters or violation of the security or integrity of any network or system.
6. Intentionally distributing computer viruses or malware of any kind.
7. sending, receiving or supporting email messages that are unsolicited, deceptive, anonymous, excessively, voluminous or that contain falsified identifying information, including spamming and phishing.
8. violating the School District's Acceptable Use Policy (Policy 4526).

## VII. Reporting Violations

All students are expected to promptly report violations of the code to a teacher, school counselor, the building principal or ~~his or her~~ designee. Any student observing a student possessing a weapon, alcohol or illegal substance on school property or at a school function ~~shall~~will report this information immediately to a teacher, the building principal, the principal's designee or the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools.



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All ~~district~~ School District staff members who are authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to do so in a prompt, fair and lawful manner. District staff members who are not authorized to impose disciplinary sanctions are expected to promptly report violations of the code to their supervisor, who ~~shall~~will in turn impose an appropriate disciplinary sanction, if so authorized, or refer the matter to a staff member who is authorized to impose an appropriate sanction.

Any weapon, alcohol or illegal substance found ~~shall~~will be confiscated immediately, if possible, followed by notification to the parent of the student involved and the appropriate disciplinary sanction if warranted, which may include permanent suspension and referral for prosecution.

The building principal or ~~his or her~~ designee must notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency of those code violations that constitute a crime and substantially affect the order or security of a school as soon as practical. The notification will be made by telephone to 911, followed by a written police report.

Retaliation by any school employee, parent/person or parental relation or student against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of a Code of Conduct violation is prohibited under law.

**VIII. Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals**

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

The code provides a description of a broad range of behavior considered to be student misconduct. The behaviors described should be viewed as those which most frequently cause a disruption to the educational process.

When administering discipline, district personnel should adhere to the following guidelines:

Discipline ~~shall~~will be administered when necessary to ensure the safety of the school, its personnel and its students.

Students ~~shall~~will be treated fairly and with dignity. Discipline ~~shall~~will be based on a careful assessment of the circumstances of each case and may include but not be limited to:

1. The student's age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.



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3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.
7. ~~Seriousness of the offense~~
8. ~~Students' age~~
9. ~~Frequency of the misconduct~~
10. ~~Students' attitude~~
11. ~~Potential effect of the misconduct on the social environment and~~
12. ~~State & Federal Law~~
13. ~~The effectiveness of other forms of discipline~~
14. ~~Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate~~

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations depending on the severity of the misconduct.

If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student ~~shall~~will be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, ~~shall~~will be administered consistent with the separate requirements of this code for disciplining students with a disability or presumed to have a disability. A student identified as having a disability ~~shall~~will not be disciplined for behavior related to ~~his/her~~their disability, unless the discipline is consistent with the student's individualized education plan (IEP).

### A. Penalties

Students who are found to have violated ~~the district~~the School District's code may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

1. ~~Oral~~Verbal warning – any member of ~~the district~~the School District staff
2. Written warning – bus drivers, hall and lunch monitors, coaches, school counselors, teachers, principal, ~~building administrators~~dean, assistant principal, superintendentSuperintendent of Schools
3. Written notification to parent/person in parental relation – coaches, school counselors, teachers, ~~building administrators~~, principal, assistant principal, dean, superintendentSuperintendent of Schools
4. Detention – teachers, ~~building administrators~~dean, assistant principal, principal, superintendentSuperintendent of Schools

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5. Removal or suspension from transportation – director of transportation, dean, assistant principal, building administrators, principal, superintendent Superintendent of Schools
6. Restriction, removal, or suspension from athletic participation – coaches, dean, building administrators, assistant principal, principal, superintendent Superintendent of Schools
7. Restriction or suspension from social or extracurricular activities – activity director, dean, assistant principal, building administrators, principal, superintendent Superintendent of Schools
8. Restriction or suspension of other privileges – dean, assistant principal, building administrators, principal, superintendent Superintendent of Schools
9. In-school suspension – principal, superintendent Superintendent of Schools
10. Removal from classroom by teacher – teachers, principal, building administrator designated by principal
11. Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school – principal, superintendent Superintendent of Schools, board, Board of Education
12. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school – principal, superintendent Superintendent of Schools, board, Board of Education
13. Referral to Family Court Diversion Program or Peer Mediation or Youth Court- building principal, Superintendent of Schools.
14. Permanent suspension from school – superintendent Superintendent of Schools, board, Board of Education of education.

**B. Procedures**

The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a penalty is imposed depends on the penalty being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the penalty imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the penalty must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the school personnel imposing the disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

Students who are to be given penalties other than an oral warning, written warning or written notification to their parents are entitled to additional rights before the penalty is imposed. These additional rights are explained below.

**1. Detention**

Teachers, assistant principals, principals and the superintendent Superintendent of Schools may use after school detention as a penalty for student misconduct in situations where removal from the classroom or suspension would be inappropriate.

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Detention will be imposed as a penalty only after the student's parent has been notified to confirm that there is no parental objection to the penalty and the student has appropriate transportation home following detention.

**2. Suspension from transportation**

If a student does not conduct ~~himself/herself~~themselves properly on a bus, the bus driver is expected to bring such misconduct to the building principal's attention. A student who becomes a serious disciplinary problem or becomes a danger to ~~himself/herself~~themselves or jeopardizes the safety of others may have ~~his/her~~their riding privileges suspended by the ~~dean, assistant principal,~~ building principal or the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools or their designees. In such cases, the student's ~~parent will~~parent or person in parental relation will become responsible for seeing that ~~his or her~~the child gets to and from school safely. Should the suspension from transportation amount to a suspension from attendance, ~~the district~~the School District will make appropriate arrangements to provide for the student's education.

A student subjected to a suspension from transportation is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's parent or person in parental relation will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the building principal or the principal's designee to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

**3. Suspension from athletic participation, ~~extra~~ ~~curricular~~extracurricular activities and other privileges**

A student subjected to a suspension from athletic participation, extracurricular activities or other privileges is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's ~~parent will~~parent or person in parental relation will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with ~~the district~~the School District official imposing the suspension to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

**4. In-school suspension**

~~The board~~The Board of Education recognizes the school must balance the need of students to attend school and the need for order in the classroom to establish an environment conducive to learning. As such, ~~the board~~the Board of Education authorizes building principals and the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools to place students who would otherwise be suspended from school as the result of a code violation in "in-school suspension." In-school suspension will be monitored by a certified teacher or teacher assistant.

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A student subjected to an in-school suspension is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's ~~parent~~ parent or person in parental relation will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with ~~the district~~ the School District official imposing the in-school suspension to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved. Any student suspended, ~~shall~~ will be provided with assignments for the day/days the student is serving the suspension.

**5. Teacher disciplinary removal of disruptive students**

A student's behavior can affect a teacher's ability to teach and can make it difficult for other students in the classroom to learn. In most instances the classroom teacher can control a student's behavior and maintain or restore control over the classroom by using good classroom management techniques. These techniques may include practices that involve the teacher directing a student to briefly leave the classroom to give the student an opportunity to regain ~~his or her~~ their composure and self-control in an alternative setting. Such practices may include, but are not limited to: (1) a short-term "time out" in an elementary classroom or in an administrator's office; (2) sending a student into the hallway briefly; (3) sending a student to the principal's office or to the appropriate administrative office for the remainder of class time only; or (4) referring the student to the school counselor or department of social services for follow up. The teacher ~~shall~~ will follow up with a referral explaining the reason for the removal from class. Time-honored classroom management techniques such as these do not constitute disciplinary removals for purposes of this code.

On occasion, a student's behavior may become disruptive. For purposes of this code, a disruptive student is a student who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom. A substantial disruption of the educational process or substantial interference with a teacher's authority occurs when a student demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules.

A classroom teacher may remove a disruptive student from class for up to two days. The removal from class applies to the class of the removing teacher only.

At the secondary level, the student must be sent to the appropriate administrative office. At the elementary level, the student must be sent to the principal's office.

If the student does not pose a danger or ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process, the student should be warned of the consequences regarding his/her actions. If the misconduct continues the student should be sent to the appropriate administrative office. The teacher will follow up with a referral of the

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incident, this should occur by the end of the day. An informal conference with the teacher and student should be held ~~within 24~~within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident.

The student's ~~parents will~~parent or person in parental relation will be notified in writing ~~within 24~~within twenty-four (24) hours that the student was removed from class. This note ~~shall~~will include the reason, as well as the consequence(s). The notice must also state that the parent, upon request, has the right to an informal conference with the principal or the principal's designee.

The written notice must be provided by personal delivery, overnight mail, express mail delivery, or some other means that is reasonably calculated to assure receipt of the notice ~~within 24~~within twenty-four (24) hours of the student's removal at the last known address for the parents. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the school has been provided with a telephone number(s) for the purpose of contacting parents.

The principal may require the teacher who ordered the removal to attend the informal conference.

If at the informal meeting the student denies the charges, the principal or the principal's designee must explain why the student was removed and give the student and the student's parents a chance to present the student's version of the relevant events. The informal meeting must be held within 48 hours of the student's removal. The timing of the informal meeting may be extended by mutual agreement of the parent and principal.

The principal or the principal's designee may overturn the removal of the student from class if the principal finds any one of the following:

1. The charges against the student are not supported by substantial evidence.
2. The student's removal is otherwise in violation of law, including ~~the district~~the School District's code.
3. The conduct warrants suspension from school pursuant to Education Law §3214 and a suspension will be imposed.

The ~~principal or his or her designee~~principal or designee may overturn a removal at any point between receiving the referral form issued by the teacher and the close of business on the day following the 48 hour period for the informal conference, if a conference is requested. No student removed from the classroom by the classroom teacher will be permitted to return to the classroom until the principal makes a final determination, or the period of removal expires, whichever is less.

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Any disruptive student removed from the classroom by the classroom teacher ~~shall~~will be offered continued educational programming and activities until ~~he or she~~is/they are permitted to return to the classroom.

Each teacher must keep a complete log (on a district provided form) for all cases of removal of students from ~~his or her~~their class. The principal must keep a log of all removals of students from class.

Removal of a student with a disability, under certain circumstances, may constitute a change in the student's placement. Accordingly, no teacher may remove a student with a disability from ~~his or her~~their class until ~~he or she has~~they have verified with the principal or the chairperson of the Committee on Special Education that the removal will not violate the student's rights under state or federal law or regulation.

### 6. Suspension from school

Suspension from school is a severe penalty, which may be imposed only upon students who are insubordinate, disorderly, violent or disruptive, or whose conduct otherwise endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.

~~The board~~The Board of Education retains its authority to suspend students, but places primary responsibility for the suspension of students with the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools and the building principals.

Any staff member may recommend to the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools or the principal that a student be suspended. This recommendation may be verbal, then followed by a written request. All staff members must immediately report and refer a violent student to the principal or the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools for a violation of the code. All recommendations and referrals ~~shall~~will be made in writing unless the conditions underlying the recommendation or referral warrant immediate attention. In such cases a written report is to be prepared as soon as possible by the staff member recommending the suspension.

The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools or principal, upon receiving a recommendation or referral for suspension or when processing a case for suspension, ~~shall~~will gather the facts relevant to the matter and record them for subsequent presentation, if necessary.

#### a. Short-term (five [5] days or less) suspension from school:

When the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools or principal (referred to as the "suspending authority") proposes to suspend a student charged with misconduct for five

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(5) days or less pursuant to Education Law §3214(3), the suspending authority must immediately notify the student orally. If the student denies the misconduct, the suspending authority must provide an explanation of the basis for the proposed suspension. The suspending authority must also notify the student's parents in writing that the student may be suspended from school. The written notice must be provided by personal delivery, overnight or registered mail, express mail delivery, or some other means that is reasonably calculated to assure receipt of the notice ~~within 24~~within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision to propose suspension at the last known address for the parents. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the school has been provided with a telephone number(s) for the purpose of contacting the parents.

The notice ~~shall~~will provide a description of the charges against the student and the incident for which suspension is proposed and ~~shall~~will inform the parents of the right to request an immediate informal conference with the principal. Both the notice and informal conference ~~shall~~will be in the dominant language or mode of communication used by the parents. At the conference, the parents ~~shall~~will be permitted to ask questions of complaining witnesses under such procedures as the principal may established.

The notice and opportunity for an informal conference ~~shall~~will take place before the student is suspended unless the student's presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process. If the student's presence does pose such a danger or threat of disruption, the notice and opportunity for an informal conference ~~shall~~will take place as soon after the suspension as is reasonably practicable.

After the conference, the principal ~~shall~~will promptly advise the parents in writing of ~~his or her~~their decision. The principal ~~shall~~will advise the parents that if they are not satisfied with the decision and wish to pursue the matter, they must file a written appeal to the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools within ~~ten~~ (10) business days, unless they can show extraordinary circumstances precluding them from doing so. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools ~~shall~~will issue a written decision regarding the appeal within ~~ten~~ (10) business days of receiving the appeal. If the parents are not satisfied with the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools's decision, they must file a written appeal to ~~the board~~the Board of Education with ~~the district~~the School District clerk within ~~ten~~ (10) business days of the date of the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools' decision, unless they can show extraordinary circumstances precluding them from doing so. Only final decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner within ~~thirty~~ calendar (30) days of the decision.

**b. Long-term (more than 5 days) suspension from school**



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When the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools or building principal determines that a suspension for more than five days may be warranted, ~~he or she~~they shall will give reasonable notice to the student and the student's parents or persons in parental relation of their right to a fair hearing. At the hearing the student ~~shall will~~ have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to question witnesses against him or her and the right to present witnesses and other evidence on ~~his or her~~their behalf.

The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools shall will personally hear and determine the proceeding or may, in ~~his or her~~their discretion, designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer ~~shall will~~ be authorized to administer oaths and to issue subpoenas in conjunction with the proceeding before him or her. A record of the hearing ~~shall will~~ be maintained, but no stenographic transcript ~~shall will~~ be required. A tape recording ~~shall will~~ be deemed a satisfactory record. The hearing officer ~~shall will~~ make findings of fact and recommendations as to the appropriate measure of discipline to the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools. The report of the hearing officer ~~shall will~~ be advisory only, and the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools may accept all or any part thereof.

An appeal of the decision of the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools may be made to ~~the board~~the Board of Education that will make its decision based solely upon the record before it. All appeals to ~~the board~~the Board of Education must be in writing and submitted to ~~the district~~the School District clerk within thirty (30) calendar -days of the date of the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools's decision, unless the parents can show that extraordinary circumstances precluded them from doing so. ~~The board~~The Board of Education may adopt in whole or in part the decision of the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools. Final decisions of ~~the board~~the Board of Education may be appealed to the Commissioner within thirty (30) calendar days of the decision.

### c. **Permanent suspension**

Permanent suspension is reserved for extraordinary circumstances such as where a student's conduct poses a life-threatening danger to the safety and well-being of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.

## C. **Minimum Periods of Suspension**

### 1. Students who bring a weapon to school

Any student, other than a student with a disability, found guilty of bringing a weapon onto school property will be subject to suspension from school for at least one calendar year. Before being suspended, the student will have an opportunity for a hearing



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pursuant to Education Law §3214. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify the one-year suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools may consider the following:

1. The student's age.
2. The student's grade level in school.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools's belief that other forms of discipline may be more effective.
5. Input from parents, teachers and/or others.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

A student with a disability may be suspended only in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law.

2. Students who commit violent acts other than bringing a weapon to school Any student, other than a student with a disability, who is found to have committed a violent act, other than bringing a weapon onto school property, ~~shall~~will be subject to suspension from school for at least five days. If the proposed penalty is the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's ~~parents will~~parent or person in parental relation will be given the same notice and opportunity for an informal conference given to all students subject to a short-term suspension. If the proposed penalty exceeds the minimum five ~~(5)-~~ day suspension, the student and the student's ~~parents will~~parent or person in parental relation will be given the same notice and opportunity for a hearing given to all students subject to a long-term suspension. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify the minimum five- ~~(5)~~ day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

3. Students who are repeatedly substantially disruptive of the educational process or repeatedly substantially interfere with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

Any student, other than a student with a disability, who repeatedly is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom will be suspended from school for at least five days. For purposes of this code, "repeatedly is substantially disruptive" means engaging in conduct that results in the student being removed from the classroom by teacher(s) pursuant to Education Law §3214(3a) and this code on four or more occasions during a semester, or three or more occasions during a trimester. If the proposed penalty is the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's ~~parent will~~parent or person in parental relation will be given the same notice and opportunity for an informal

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conference given to all students subject to a short-term suspension. If the proposed penalty exceeds the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's ~~parent~~ parent or person in parental relation will be given the same notice and opportunity for a hearing given to all students subject to a long-term suspension. The ~~superintendent~~ Superintendent of Schools has the authority to modify the minimum five-day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the ~~superintendent~~ Superintendent of Schools may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one (1)-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

### D. Disciplinary and Remedial Consequences for Code of Conduct Violations

The School District supports the development of measured, balanced and age-appropriate responses to Code of Conduct violations with remedies and procedures focusing on prevention, intervention, education and discipline. Remedies will be measured, balanced, progressive and age-appropriate and will take into consideration the nature and severity of the offending student's behavior, the developmental age of the student, the previous disciplinary record of the student and other extenuating circumstances, and the impact the offending student's behaviors had on the individual who was physically injured or emotionally harmed. Responses will be reasonably calculated to end the behavior.

Successful intervention may involve remediation.

Remedial responses to Code of Conduct violations include measures designed to correct the problem behavior, prevent another occurrence of the behavior, and protect the target of the act. Appropriate remedial measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Restitution and restoration;
- Peer support groups;
- Corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experience;
- Supportive intervention;
- Mediation sessions with mental health staff;
- Behavioral assessment or evaluation;
- Behavioral management plans that are closely monitored;
- Student counseling; and
- Parent conferences.

Beyond these individual-focused remedial responses, school-wide or environmental remediation can be an important tool to prevent bullying, harassment and/or discrimination. Environmental remediation strategies may include, but are not limited to:

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- Supervisory systems which empower school staff with prevention and intervention tools to address incidents of bullying, harassment and/or discrimination;
- School and community surveys or other strategies for determining the conditions contributing to the relevant behavior;
- Modification of schedules;
- Adjustment in hallway traffic and other student routes of travel;
- Targeted use of monitors;
- Staff professional development;
- Parent conferences;
- Involvement of parent-teacher organizations; and
- Peer support groups.

If appropriate, disciplinary action will be taken by the administration in accordance with this policy, as applicable. If the behavior rises to the level of criminal activity, law enforcement will be contacted.

Staff is expected, when aware of bullying, to either refer the student to designated resources for assistance, or to intervene in accordance with this policy.

**E. Referrals****1. Counseling**

The administrator should make all referrals of the student to the school counselor, school psychologist or social worker.

**2. PINS Petitions**

~~The district~~The School District may file a PINS (person in need of supervision) petition in Family Court on any student under the age of 18 who demonstrates that ~~he or she requires~~they require supervision and treatment by:

- a. Being habitually truant and not attending school as required by part one of Article 65 of the Education Law.
- b. Engaging in an ongoing or continual course of conduct which makes the student ungovernable, or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of the school.
- ~~c. Knowingly and unlawfully possesses marijuana in violation of Penal Law § 221.05. A single violation of § 221.05 will be a sufficient basis for filing a PINS petition.~~

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**3. Juvenile Delinquents and Juvenile Offenders**

The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools is required to refer the following students to the County Attorney for a juvenile delinquency proceeding before the Family Court:

- a. Any student under the age of 16 who is found to have brought a weapon to school, or
- b. Any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status under the Criminal Procedure Law §1.20 (42).

The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools is required to refer students age 16 and older or any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

**IX. Alternative Instruction**

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher or a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law §3214, ~~the district~~the School District will take immediate steps to provide alternative means of instruction for the student. ~~The board~~The Board of Education expects students, administrators, teachers and parents to make every effort to maintain student academic progress in the event of removal or suspension, and support student re-entry to the classroom at the conclusion of the disciplinary action.

**X. Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

~~The board~~The Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. ~~The board~~The Board of Education also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. ~~The board~~The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

This code affords students with disabilities subject to disciplinary action no greater or lesser rights than those expressly afforded by applicable federal and state law and regulations.

**A. Authorized Suspensions or Removals of Students with Disabilities**

1. For purposes of this section of the code, the following definitions apply.

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A “suspension” means a suspension pursuant to Education Law § 3214.

A “removal” means a removal for disciplinary reasons from the student’s current educational placement other than a suspension and change in placement to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) ordered by an impartial hearing officer because the student poses a risk of harm to himself or herself or others.

An “IAES” means a temporary educational placement for a period of up to 45 days, other than the student’s current placement at the time the behavior precipitating the IAES placement occurred, that enables the student to continue to progress in the general curriculum, although in another setting, to continue to receive those services and modifications, including those described on the student’s current individualized education program (IEP), that will enable the student to meet the goals set out in such IEP, and include services and modifications to address the behavior which precipitating the IAES placement that are designed to prevent the behavior from recurring.

2. School personnel may order the suspension or removal of a student with a disability from ~~his or her~~their current educational placement as follows:

a. ~~The board~~The Board of Education, the districtthe School District (BOCES) ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools~~or a building principal~~ may order the placement of a student with a disability into an IAES, another setting or suspension for a period not to exceed five consecutive school days and not to exceed the amount of time a non-disabled student would be subject to suspension for the same behavior.

b. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools may order the placement of a student with a disability into an IAES, another setting or suspension for up to ~~ten~~ (10) consecutive school days, inclusive of any period in which the student has been suspended or removed under subparagraph (a) above for the same behavior, if the ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools determines that the student has engaged in behavior that warrants a suspension and the suspension or removal does not exceed the amount of time non-disabled students would be subject to suspension for the same behavior.

c. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools may order additional suspensions of not more than ~~ten~~ (10) consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct, as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement.

d. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools may order the placement of a student with a disability in an IAES to be determined by the

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committee on special education (CSE), for the same amount of time that a student without a disability would be subject to discipline, but not more than forty-five (45) days, if the student carries or possesses a weapon to school or to a school 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 function, or has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises or at a school function under ~~the district~~the School District's jurisdiction.

1) "Weapon" means the same as "dangerous weapon" under 18 U.S.C. § 930(g)(w) which includes "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...[for] a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 1/2 inches in length."

2) "Controlled substance" means a drug or other substance identified in certain provisions of the federal Controlled Substances Act specified in both federal and state law and regulations applicable to this policy.

3) "Illegal drugs" means a controlled substance except for those legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed healthcare professional or that is legally possessed or used under any other authority under the Controlled Substances Act or any other federal law.

4) "Serious Bodily Harm" means bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted obvious disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or mental faculty.

3. Subject to specified conditions required by both federal and state law and regulations, an impartial hearing officer may order the placement of a student with a disability in an IAES setting for up to 45 days at a time, if maintaining the student in ~~his or her~~their current educational placement poses a risk of harm to the student or others.

**B. Change of Placement Rule**

1. A disciplinary change in placement means a suspension or removal from a student's current educational placement that is either:

a. For more than ten (10) consecutive school days; or

b. For a period of ten (10) consecutive school days or less if the student is subjected to a series of suspensions or removals that constitute a pattern because they cumulate to more than ten (10) school days in a school year and because of such factors as the length of each suspension or removal, the total

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amount of time the student is removed and the proximity of the suspensions or removals to one another.

2. School personnel may not suspend or remove a student with disabilities if imposition of the suspension or removal would result in a disciplinary change in placement based on a pattern of suspension or removal.

3. However, ~~the district~~The School District may impose a suspension or removal, which would otherwise result in a disciplinary change in placement, based on a pattern of suspensions or removals if the CSE has determined that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, or the student is placed in an IAES for behavior involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances.

**C. Special Rules Regarding the Suspension or Removal of Students with Disabilities**

1. ~~The district~~The School District's Committee on Special Education ~~shall~~will:

a. Conduct functional behavioral assessments to determine why a student engages in a particular behavior, and develop or review behavioral intervention plans whenever ~~the district~~The School District is first suspending or removing a student with a disability for more than 10 school days in a school year or imposing a suspension or removal that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement, including a change in placement to an IAES for misconduct involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances.

If subsequently, a student with a disability who has a behavioral intervention plan and who has been suspended or removed from ~~his or her~~their current educational placement for more than 10 school days in a school year is subjected to a suspension or removal that does not constitute a disciplinary change in placement, the members of the CSE ~~shall~~will review the behavioral intervention plan and its implementation to determine if modifications are necessary.

If one or more members of the CSE believe that modifications are needed, the ~~school district~~School District ~~shall~~will convene a meeting of the CSE to modify such plan and its implementation, to the extent the committee determines necessary.

b. Conduct a manifestation determination review of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to disciplinary action whenever a decision is made to place a student in an IAES either for misconduct



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involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances or because maintaining the student in his current educational setting poses a risk of harm to the student or others; or a decision is made to impose a suspension that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement.

2. The parents of a student who is facing disciplinary action, but who has not been determined to be eligible for services under IDEA and Article 89 at the time of misconduct, ~~shall~~will have the right to invoke applicable procedural safeguards set forth in federal and state law and regulations if, in accordance with federal and state statutory and regulatory criteria, the ~~school-district~~School District is deemed to have had knowledge that their child was a student with a disability before the behavior precipitating disciplinary action occurred. If ~~the district~~the School District is deemed to have had such knowledge, the student will be considered a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes.

a. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools,<sup>7.1</sup> building principal or other school official imposing a suspension or removal ~~shall~~will be responsible for determining whether the student is a student presumed to have a disability.

b. A student will not be considered a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes if, upon receipt of information supporting a claim that ~~the district~~the School District had knowledge the student was a student with a disability, ~~the district~~the School District either:

1) Conducted an individual evaluation and determined that the student is not a student with a disability, or

2) Determined that an evaluation was not necessary and provided notice to the parents of such determination, in the manner required by applicable law and regulations.

If there is no basis for knowledge that the student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary measures against the student, the student may be subjected to the same disciplinary measures as any other non-disabled student who engaged in comparable behaviors.

However, if a request for an individual evaluation is made while such non-disabled student is subjected to a disciplinary removal, an expedited evaluation ~~shall~~will be conducted and completed in the manner prescribed by applicable federal and state law and regulations. Until the expedited evaluation is completed, the non-disabled student who is not a student presumed to have a disability for discipline purposes ~~shall~~will remain in the



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educational placement determined by ~~the district~~the School District, which can include suspension.

3. ~~The district~~The School District shall will provide parents with notice of disciplinary removal no later than the date on which a decision is made to change the placement of a student with a disability to an IAES for either misconduct involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances or because maintaining the student in his/her current educational setting poses a risk of harm to the student or others; or a decision is made to impose a suspension or removal that constitutes a disciplinary change in placement.

The procedural safeguards notice prescribed by the Commissioner ~~shall~~will accompany the notice of disciplinary removal.

4. The parents of a student with disabilities subject to a suspension of five consecutive school days or less ~~shall~~will be provided with the same opportunity for an informal conference available to parents of non-disabled students under the Education Law.

5. Superintendent hearings on disciplinary charges against students with disabilities subject to a suspension of more than five school days ~~shall~~will be bifurcated into a guilt phase and a penalty phase in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into this code.

6. The removal of a student with disabilities other than a suspension or placement in an IAES ~~shall~~will be conducted in accordance with the due process procedures applicable to such removals of non-disabled students, except that school personnel may not impose such removal for more than ~~ten (10)~~ consecutive days or for a period that would result in a disciplinary change in placement, unless the CSE has determined that the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability.

7. During any period of suspension or removal, including placement in an IAES, students with disabilities ~~shall~~will be provided services as required by the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into this code.

**D. Expedited Due Process Hearings**

1. An expedited due process hearing ~~shall~~will be conducted in the manner specified by the Commissioner's regulations incorporated into this code, if:

- a. ~~The district~~The School District requests such a hearing to obtain an order of an impartial hearing officer placing a student with a disability in an IAES where school personnel maintain that it is dangerous for the student to be in ~~his or~~

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~~her~~their current educational placement, or during the pendency of due process hearings where school personnel maintain that it is dangerous for the student to be in ~~his or her~~their current educational placement during such proceedings.

b. The parent requests such a hearing from a determination that the student's behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability, or relating to any decision regarding placement, including but not limited to any decision to place the student in an IAES.

1) During the pendency of an expedited due process hearing or appeal regarding the placement of a student in an IAES for behavior involving weapons, illegal drugs or controlled substances, or on grounds of dangerousness, or regarding a determination that the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability for a student who has been placed in an IAES, the student ~~shall~~will remain in the IAES pending the decision of the impartial hearing officer or until expiration of the IAES placement, whichever occurs first, unless the parents and ~~the district~~the School District agree otherwise.

2) If school personnel propose to change the student's placement after expiration of an IAES placement, during the pendency of any proceeding to challenge the proposed change in placement, the student ~~shall~~will remain in the placement prior to removal to the IAES, except where the student is again placed in an IAES.

2. An expedited due process hearing ~~shall~~will be completed within ~~fifteen~~(15) business days of receipt of the request for a hearing. Although the impartial hearing officer may grant specific extensions of such time period, ~~he or she~~they must mail a written decision to ~~the district~~the School District and the parents within five business days after the last hearing date, and in no event later than ~~forty-five~~(45) calendar days after receipt of the request for a hearing, without exceptions or extensions.

**E. Referral to law enforcement and judicial authorities**

In accordance with the provisions of IDEA and its implementing regulations:

1. ~~The district~~The School District may report a crime committed by a child with a disability to appropriate authorities, and such action will not constitute a change of the student's placement.

2. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools ~~shall~~will ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of a student with disabilities are transmitted for consideration to the appropriate authorities to whom a crime is reported,

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to the extent that the transmission is permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

**XI. Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is any act of physical force upon a student for the purpose of punishing that student. Corporal punishment of any student by any district employee is strictly forbidden. . As used in this section, corporal punishment is defined as the use of physical force for the purpose of punishing a student.

However, in situations where alternative procedures and methods that do not involve the use of physical force cannot reasonably be used, reasonable physical force may be used to:

1. Protect oneself, another student, teacher or any person from physical injury.
2. Protect the property of the school or others.
3. Restrain or remove a student whose behavior interferes with the orderly exercise and performance of ~~school-district~~School District functions, powers and duties, if that student has refused to refrain from further disruptive acts.

~~The district~~The School District will file all complaints about the use of corporal punishment with the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Commissioner's regulations.

**XII. Student Searches and Interrogations**

~~The board~~The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the code. Students are not entitled to any sort of "Miranda" type warning before being questioned by school officials, nor are school officials required to contact a student's parent before questioning the student. However, school officials will tell all students why they are being questioned.

In addition, ~~the board~~the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, building principals, the school nurse and district security officials to conduct searches of students and their belongings, if the authorized school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or the code (exceptions set forth below in A and B).

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An authorized school official may conduct a search of a student's belongings that is minimally intrusive, such as touching the outside of a book bag, without reasonable suspicion, so long as the school official has a legitimate reason for the very limited search.

An authorized school official may search a student or the student's belongings based upon information received from a reliable informant. Individuals, other than ~~the~~ the School District employees, will be considered reliable informants if they have previously supplied information that was accurate and verified, or they make an admission against their own interest, or they provide the same information that is received independently from other sources, or they appear to be credible and the information they are communicating relates to an immediate threat to safety. District employees will be considered reliable informants unless they are known to have previously supplied information that they knew was not accurate.

Before searching a student or the student's belongings, the authorized school official should attempt to get the student to admit that ~~he or she~~ they possesses physical evidence that ~~he/she~~ they violated the law or the code, or get the student to voluntarily consent to the search. Searches will be limited to the extent necessary to locate the evidence sought.

Whenever practicable, searches will be conducted in the privacy of administrative offices and students will be present when their possessions are being searched.

**A. Student Lockers, Desks, Files stored on district computers and network servers and other School Storage Places**

The rules in this code regarding searches of students and their belongings do not apply to student lockers, desks, files stored on district computers and network servers and other school storage places. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to these places and school officials retain complete control over them. This means that student lockers, desks, files stored on district computers and network servers 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.

**B. Strip Searches**

A strip search is a search that requires a student to remove any or all of ~~his or her~~ their clothing, other than an outer coat or jacket, socks, cap, shoes, or sweatshirt. Strip searches may not be conducted by any school representative or official.

**C. Confiscating Cell Phones**

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Teachers and administrators are authorized to confiscate student cell phones that are being used in violation of the code.

**D. Documentation of Searches**

The authorized school official conducting the search ~~shall~~will be responsible for promptly recording the following information about each search:

1. Name, age and grade of student searched.
2. Reasons for the search.
3. Name of any informant(s).
4. Purpose of search (that is, what item(s) were being sought).
5. Type and scope of search.
6. Person conducting search and ~~his or her~~ title and position.
7. Witnesses, if any, to the search.
8. Time and location of search.
9. Results of search (that is, what items(s) were found).
10. Disposition of items found.
11. Time, manner and results of parental notification.

The building principal or the principal's designee ~~shall~~will be responsible for the custody, control and disposition of any illegal or dangerous item taken from a student. The ~~principal or his or her designee~~principal or designee shall will clearly label each item taken from the student and retain control of the item(s), until the items is turned over to the police. The ~~principal or his or her designee~~principal or designee shall will be responsible for personally delivering dangerous or illegal items to police authorities.

**E. Questioning of Students by School Officials**

School officials have the right to question students regarding any violations of school rules and/or illegal activity. In general, the administration may conduct investigations concerning reports of misconduct. These may include, but are not limited to, questioning students, staff, parents/guardians, or other individuals as may be appropriate and, when necessary, determining disciplinary action in accordance with applicable due process rights. Should the questioning of students by school officials focus on the actions of one particular student, the student will be questioned, if possible, in private by the appropriate school administrator. The student's parent/person in parental relation may be contacted. The degree, if any, of parental/person in parental relation involvement will vary depending upon the nature and the reason for questioning, and the necessity for further action which may occur as a result.

The questioning of students by school officials does not preclude subsequent questioning/interrogations by police authorities as otherwise permitted by law. Similarly,

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the questioning of students by school officials does not negate the right/responsibility of school officials to contact appropriate law enforcement agencies, as may be necessary, with regard to such statements given by students to school officials.

School officials acting alone and on their own authority, without the involvement of or on behalf of law enforcement officials are not required to give the so-called "Miranda warnings" (i.e., advising a person, prior to any custodial interrogations as defined in law, of the right to remain silent; that any statement made by the individual may be used as evidence against them; and that the individual has the right to the presence of an attorney, either retained or appointed) prior to the questioning of students.

If deemed appropriate and/or necessary, the Superintendent of Schools or their designee may also review the circumstances with School District legal counsel so as to address concerns and the course of action, if any, which may pertain to and/or result from the questioning of students by school officials.

**EF. Police Involvement in Searches and Interrogations of Students**

School District officials are committed to cooperating with police officials and other law enforcement authorities to maintain a safe school environment. Police officials, however, have limited authority to interview or search students in schools or at school functions, or to use school facilities in connection with police work. Police officials may enter school property or a school function to question or search a student or to conduct a formal investigation involving students only if they have:

1. A search or an arrest warrant; or
2. Probable cause to believe a crime has been committed on school property or at a school function; or
3. Been invited by school officials (with consent from the child's parent or guardianperson in parental relation).

Before police officials are permitted to question or search any student, the building principal or ~~his or her~~ designee shallwill first try to notify the student's parent or person in parental relation to give the parent or person the opportunity to be present during the police questioning or search. If the student's parent cannot be contacted prior to the police questioning or search, the questioning or search shallwill not be conducted. The principal or designee will also be present during any police questioning or search of a student on school property or at a school function.

Students who are questioned by police officials on school property or at a school function will be afforded the same rights they have outside the school. This means:

1. They must be informed of their legal rights.
2. They may remain silent if they so desire.

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3. They may request the presence of an attorney.

**FG. Child Protective Services Investigations**

Consistent with ~~the district~~the School District's commitment to keep students safe from harm and the obligation of school officials to report to child protective services when they have reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been abused or maltreated, ~~the district~~the School District will cooperate pursuant to applicable law and regulation with local child protective services workers who wish to conduct interviews of students on school property who are named as victims in reports of suspected abuse or maltreatment or who are siblings or children residing in the same home as the named victims.

All requests by child protective services to interview a student on school property ~~shall~~will identify the student to be interviewed and be made directly to the building ~~principal or his or her designee~~principal or designee. The ~~principal or his or her designee~~principal or designee ~~shall~~will reasonably set the time and place of the interview. All child protective services workers must provide professional identification and comply with all applicable policies relating to visitors to a school. With regard to ~~the district~~the School District's right to be present at any interview conducted on school premises, the principal or designee ~~shall~~will decide if it is necessary and appropriate for a school official to be present during the interview, depending on the age of the student being interviewed and the nature of the allegations. If the nature of the allegations is such that it may be necessary for the student to remove any of ~~his or her~~their clothing in order for the child protective services worker to verify the allegations, the school nurse or other district medical personnel must be present during that portion of the interview. No student may be required to remove ~~his or her~~their clothing in front of a child protective services worker or ~~school district~~School District official of the opposite sex.

A child protective services worker may not remove a student from school property without a court order or without a parent's consent, unless the worker has a reasonable basis to believe that the student would be subject to imminent danger of abuse or harm if ~~he or she~~they were not removed from school before a court order can reasonably be obtained. Prior to removal from school, the Superintendent of Schools must be notified.

**XIII. Visitors to the Schools**

~~The board~~The Board of Education recognizes that the primary purpose of our schools is the education of its students. Since schools are a place of learning, certain limits must be set concerning visits to the schools to minimize disruption of the educational process and to ensure a safe environment for all.

Any requests for visitation must be pre-arranged with the building principal or ~~his/her~~their designee, and can only be allowed in a manner that minimizes disruption of the



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educational process. The building principal or his/her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds.

For these reasons, the following rules apply to all visitors to the schools:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
2. All visitors to the schools must report to the greeter (and/or security guard) upon entering the school and sign in. At that time, they will receive a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must surrender the badge and sign out upon leaving the building.
3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings, concerts, plays, etc., are not required to register.
4. No one is permitted to bring items to a child's classroom that the child has forgotten at home, (such as lunch money, lunch, books, musical instruments, projects, etc.), so as not to disrupt classroom activities. These items should be brought to the main office/or greeter and appropriate school personnel will see that the child receives the item.
5. Class time and special school functions are not appropriate times to discuss individual matters or concerns with the teacher. All personal conference should take place at pre-arranged times.
6. Any unauthorized person(s) on school property will be reported to the principal or ~~his/her~~ designee and asked to leave the premises immediately. The police can and will be summoned if the situation warrants.
7. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in this code.

**XIV. Public Conduct on School Property**

~~The district~~The School District is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions.

For purposes of this section of the code, "public" ~~shall~~will mean all persons when on school property or attending a school function including students, teachers and district personnel.



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The restrictions on public conduct on school property and at school functions contained in this code are not intended to limit freedom of speech or peaceful assembly. ~~The district~~The School District recognizes that free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the objectives of ~~the district~~the School District. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

All persons on school property or attending a school function ~~shall~~will conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property.

**A. Prohibited Conduct**

No person, either alone or with others, ~~shall~~will:

1. Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so.
2. Intentionally damage or destroy ~~school-district~~School District property or the personal property of a teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
3. Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities.
4. Distribute or wear materials on school grounds or at school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program.
5. Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, creed, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression).
6. Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed.
7. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which this code applies.
8. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles;
9. Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or be under the influence of either on school property or at a school function.
10. Possess or use weapons in or on school property or at a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the ~~school-district~~School District.
11. Loiter on or about school property.
12. Gamble on school property or at school functions.

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13. Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable ~~school-district~~School District officials performing their duties.
14. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this code.
15. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or board policy while on school property or while at a school function.
16. Smoke a cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette, or use chewing or smokeless tobacco including any type of vaporizer.

**B. Penalties**

Persons who violate this code ~~shall~~will be subject to the following penalties:

1. Visitors. Their authorization, if any, to remain on school grounds or at the school function ~~shall~~will be withdrawn and they ~~shall~~will be directed to leave the premises. If they refuse to leave, they ~~shall~~will be subject to ejection.
2. Students. They ~~shall~~will be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant, in accordance with the due process requirements.
3. Tenured faculty members. They ~~shall~~will be subject to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Education Law §3020a or any other legal rights that they may have.
4. Staff members in the classified service of the civil service entitled to the protection of Civil Service Law §75. They ~~shall~~will be subject to immediate ejection and to disciplinary action as the facts may warrant in accordance with Civil Service Law §75 or any other legal rights that they may have.
5. Staff members other than those described in subdivisions 4 and 5. They ~~shall~~will be subject to warning, reprimand, suspension or dismissal as the facts may warrant in accordance with any legal rights they may have.

**C. Enforcement**

The building principal or ~~his or her~~ designee ~~shall~~will be responsible for enforcing the conduct required by this code.

When the building principal or ~~his or her~~ designee sees an individual engaged in prohibited conduct, which in ~~his or her~~their judgment does not pose any immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the principal or ~~his or her~~ designee ~~shall~~will tell the individual that the conduct is prohibited and attempt to persuade the individual to stop. The principal or ~~his or her~~ designee ~~shall~~will also warn the individual of the consequences for failing to stop. If the person refuses to stop engaging in the prohibited conduct, or if the person's conduct poses an immediate threat of injury to persons or property, the ~~principal or his or her designee~~principal or designee ~~shall~~will have the individual removed immediately from school property or the school function. If

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necessary, local law enforcement authorities will be contacted to assist in removing the person. ~~The district~~The School District ~~shall~~will initiate disciplinary action against any student or staff member, as appropriate, with the “Penalties” section above. In addition, ~~the district~~the School District reserves its right to pursue a civil or criminal legal action against any person violating the code.

**XV. Dissemination and Review****A. Dissemination of Code of Conduct**

~~The board~~The Board of Education will work to ensure that the community is aware of this code by:

1. Providing copies of an age appropriate, written in plain language, summary of the code to all students at an assembly to be held at the beginning of each school year.
2. Providing a plain language summary to all parents at the beginning of the school year and thereafter on request.
3. Posting a complete code on ~~the district~~the School District’s website.
4. Providing all current teachers and other staff members with a copy of the code and a copy of any amendments to the code as soon as practicable after adoption.
5. Providing all new employees with a copy of the current code when they are first hired.
6. Making copies of the code available for review by students, parents and other community members.
7. Providing copies of an age appropriate, plain language summary of the code in student registration materials.

~~The board~~The Board of Education will sponsor an in-service education program for all district staff members to ensure the effective implementation of the code. The ~~superintendent~~Superintendent of Schools may solicit the recommendations of ~~the district~~the School District staff, particularly teachers and administrators, regarding in-service programs pertaining to the management and discipline of students. On-going professional development will be included in ~~the district~~the School District’s professional development plan, as needed.

**B. Review of Code of Conduct**

~~The board~~The Board of Education will review this code every year and update it as necessary. In conducting the review, ~~the board~~the Board of Education will consider how effective the code’s provisions have been and whether the code has been applied fairly and consistently.

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~~The board~~The Board of Education may appoint an advisory committee to assist in reviewing the code and ~~the district~~the School District's response to code violations. The committee will be made up of representatives of student, teacher, administrator, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel.

Before adopting any revisions to the code, ~~the board~~the Board of Education will hold at least one public hearing at which school personnel, parents, students and any other interested party may participate.

The code and any amendments to it will be filed with the Commissioner of Education, in a manner prescribed by the Commissioner, no later than thirty (30) days after adoption.