

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

It is essential for schools to maintain a safe and orderly environment which supports student learning and achievement. Good discipline allows a school to discharge its responsibility to educate students and promote good citizenship. All students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with School Committee policies, school rules, and applicable state and federal laws. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate policies, rules, or laws, and/or whose conduct unreasonably interferes with learning, operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

The School Committee expects the following principles to guide the development and implementation of school rules and disciplinary procedures:

- A. Discipline should emphasize positive interventions and expectations, as well as appropriate consequences for misbehavior. The focus should be on providing a school environment where students are engaged in constructive learning and interactions with others.
- B. Good discipline begins with setting clear expectations for student conduct, including our overarching values of honesty, respect, compassion, fairness, and personal responsibility. Any broad expectations for student conduct should be translated into specific expectations across different settings in school.
- C. Expectations for student behavior should be clear and communicated to students, staff, and parents.
- D. Consequences for misbehavior should be in proportion to the offense, fair, and consistently enforced. Consequences, whenever possible, should emphasize the student learning from his or her mistakes, and repairing any harm done by committing the offense.
- E. Parents should be actively involved in the process of preventing and resolving disciplinary problems at school.

Physical force and corporal punishment shall not be used as disciplinary methods. State regulation provides that physical restraint and seclusion may only be used as an emergency intervention when the behavior of a student presents a risk of injury or harm to the student or others. (Chapter 33).

Teachers are authorized to make and enforce rules for effective classroom management and to foster positive student behavior, so long as those classroom rules are consistent with school wide behavioral expectations, subject to the direction and approval by the Principal/designee.

The school-wide code of conduct shall be developed by the building Principal with appropriate input from school staff, students and parents and subject to approval by the Superintendent. The Principal shall provide for the suspension of or other serious disciplinary action against

students in accordance with School Committee policies, administrative procedure, and Maine law.

Legal Reference: 17-A MRSA Section 106
20-A MRSA Section 1001, Section 15-A, and 4009
Ch. 125.23, B, 5, 1 (Maine Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: AC—Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
ACAA—Student Harassment and Sexual Harassment
JICIA—Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JKB—Student Detention
JKD—Suspension of Students
JKE—Expulsion of Student
JKF—Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

Adopted:

Revised: