

## Students

### Conduct at School and Activities

#### Areas of Responsibility for Student Conduct and School Discipline

Although the ultimate goal of all student discipline is cultivation, or development of appropriate self discipline in each student, direct staff responsibilities in pursuit of that goal include:

- 1. Certified staff.** Teachers, administrators, and other certified staff are responsible for the proper conduct and control of students while they are under the supervision and jurisdiction of the particular school and the school district.
- 2. Principal.** Principals may implement necessary procedures and school rules and regulations on student behavior consistent with Board of Education policies. Principals may involve representatives from school personnel, students, parents, and citizens of the community in developing standards, specific rules and regulations, and procedures for student conduct at school and in out of school activities.
- 3. Support Staff.** Instructional and other aides, custodians, secretaries and clerks, cafeteria employees, bus drivers, and other non-certified staff are responsible for appropriate reporting of inappropriate student behavior and actions to teachers and administrators and for intervention and necessary action in the absence of certified staff to preserve personal safety of other students, staff, and to safeguard school district property.
- 4. Parents.** Parents are expected to cooperate with and to support school authorities on the behavior and discipline of their children. Parents shall be held responsible for willful misbehavior of their children and for any destructive acts on school property.

### Student Behavior

Students shall be properly instructed in rules and regulations of acceptable conduct and are responsible for understanding and complying with school and school district standards of behavior. Any student who fails to comply with these rules and regulations concerning student behavior is liable to suspension, exclusion, or expulsion.

### Publication to Parents/Guardians of Behavior Code

Parents/guardians and their students shall be notified at the beginning of each school year of district policies, and regulations on student discipline, and to transfer students at the time of their enrollment in the school through receipt of the school handbook. Parents/guardians and students

shall sign an acknowledgement of receipt and understanding of policies and regulations regarding student conduct and associated discipline.

(cf. [5114](#) Suspension/Expulsion/Exclusion/Removal)

(cf. [5131.5](#) Vandalism)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[52-572](#) Parental liability for torts of minors. Damage defined.

**Policy Adopted: March 1, 1995**

**January 3, 2007**

## **Regulation**

### **Students**

#### **Conduct**

##### **Violent and Aggressive Behavior**

The Board of Education recognizes that there are certain behaviors that, if tolerated, would quickly destroy the type of learning environment to which the students and staff are entitled with this school system. These behaviors, categorized as violent and aggressive, will not be tolerated and shall result in immediate action by the school system.

All acts of violence and aggression, including, but not limited to, terroristic acts and /or threats, shall result in specific consequences, determined by the seriousness of the act, including suspension from school and consideration of expulsion from school by the Board of Education for acts of a serious or chronic nature.

Acts of violence and aggression must be well-documented and communicated to the school principal or his/her designee. The Superintendent of Schools is to be notified immediately of all acts pertaining to possession, threat with, or use of a weapon; physical assaults; stalking; and terroristic threats or acts. The Board of Education will be informed and involved where deemed necessary by the Superintendent or where required by law. The immediate involvement of the parents(s) or guardians(s) is viewed as essential.

Serious consideration is to be given to the involvement of appropriate law enforcement agencies and other agencies in such cases. The police shall be involved if there is any violation of the law.

The following behaviors are defined as violent and aggressive.

##### **Possession, Treat with, or Use of a weapon or Dangerous Instrument**

**Weapon or Dangerous Instrument** includes, but is not limited to, any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, air gun or spring gun; slingshot; bludgeon; brass knuckles or artificial knuckles of any kind; knives, any knife the blades of which can be opened by a flick of a button or pressure on the handle, or any pocket knife where the blade is carried in a partially opened position; martial arts weapon; destructive device; or facsimiles of firearms.

**Possession** is defined as having a weapon or dangerous instrument on one's person, or in an area subject to one's control, in any school building on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity. A student's conduct off school grounds that is seriously disruptive of the educational process and violative of the Board's publicized policies shall also be considered for disciplinary action by school officials under this policy. A student found to be in possession and/or use of a firearm or dangerous weapon as defined above shall be subject to expulsion of one calendar year.

*Note:* A student who finds a firearm, weapon or dangerous instrument and immediately advises a teacher or other adult, shall not be considered in possession of such device. Students who find firearms, weapons or dangerous instruments are advised to seek adult assistance and are advised not to touch the weapon.

### **Physical Assault**

Physical assault is the act of striking or touching a person or that person's property with a part of the anatomy or any object, with the intent of causing hurt or harm.

### **Verbal Abuse**

Verbal abuse shall include but is not limited to swearing, screaming, obscene gestures or threats when directed, either orally, including the telephone or in writing, at an individual, his/her family or a group.

### **Intimidation**

Intimidation is an act intended to frighten or coerce someone into submission or obedience.

### **Extortion**

Extortion is the use of verbal or physical coercion in order to obtain financial or material gain from others.

### **Bullying**

Bullying is defined as any overt acts by a student or groups of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, humiliate or intimidate the other student while on school grounds or at a school sponsored activity, which acts are repeated against the same student over time.

### **Gangs**

Gangs are groups of youths who share common beliefs, attitudes, and attire and exhibit unlawful and anti-social behavior.

### **Terroristic Threats**

**Terroristic** threat is a threat to commit violence communicated with the intent to terrorize another, to cause evacuation of a building, or to cause serious public inconvenience, in reckless disregard of the risk causing such terror or inconvenience.

### **Terroristic Act**

**Terroristic act** is an offense against property or involving danger to another person or persons.

### **Sexual Harassment**

**Sexual harassment** is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal or physical, including, but not limited to, insulting or degrading sexual remarks or conduct; threats or suggestions that a student's or staff member's submission to or rejection of unwelcome conduct will in any way influence a decision regarding that student or staff member; or conduct of a sexual nature which substantially interferes with a student's learning; or staff member's performance of duties, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning or working environment, such as the display in the educational setting of sexually suggestive objects or pictures.

### **Stalking**

**Stalking** is the persistent following, contacting, watching or any other such threatening actions that compromise the peace of mind or the personal safety of the individual.

### **Defiance**

**Defiance** is the act or instance of defying or opposing; insubordination.

### **Racial Slurs**

Racial slurs are insulting, disparaging or derogatory comments made directly or by innuendo regarding a person's racial origin.

(cf. [5114](#) - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process) (cf. 5130 - Student Conduct)

(cf. 5131.7 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments) (cf. [5141.5](#) - Crisis Management)

(cf. [5141.6](#) - Safety)

(cf 5144 - Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 5144.2 - Use of Physical Force)

(cf. 5144.3 - Discipline of Students with Disabilities) (cf. [5145.12](#) - Search and Seizure)

(cf. [5145.5](#) - Sexual Harassment)

(cf. [5131.911](#) – Hazing/Bullying)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[4-176e](#) through [4-180a](#). Contested Cases. Notice. Record.

[10-233a](#) through [10-233f](#). Suspension, removal and expulsion of students, as amended by PA [95-304](#) and PA 96-244.

[46a-60](#) Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.

Constitution of the State of Connecticut, Article I, Section 20.

[53a-3](#) Definitions.

[53a-217b](#) Possession of firearms and deadly weapons on school grounds.

[53-206](#) Carrying and sale of dangerous weapons.

PA 94-221 An Act Concerning School Discipline and Safety.

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. 103-227.

18 U.S.C. 921 Definitions.

Title III - Amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Sec. 314 (Local Control Over Violence).

Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 as amended by the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994.

PL 105-17 The Individuals with Disabilities Act, Amendment of 1997. Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, 42 U.S.C.

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Policy Guidance (N-915.035) on Current Issues of Sexual harassment, effective 10/15/88.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, CFR Section 106 *Mentor Savings Bank. FSB v. Vinson*, 477 U.S. 57 (1986).

PA Act 02-119, An Act Concerning Bullying Behavior in Schools and Concerning the Pledge of Allegiance

**Regulations Adopted: January 3, 2007**