

STUDENT CONDUCT

A. General Policy.

The School Board is committed to promoting a safe, healthy, orderly and supportive school and learning environment. To achieve that for all, it is important for students to conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age level and maturity, and with respect and consideration other students, school district personnel and other members of the community. Students are expected and required to maintain appropriate behavior that allows teachers, staff and building administration to perform their professional duties effectively and without disruption while on School District property or on property within the jurisdiction of the School District (including vehicles); and/or while attending or engaged in school activities as described in Board policy JICG.

The School Board believes that responses to violations in board policies and school rules regarding the expectations for student conduct and standards for student behavior should be designed to maximize student academic, emotional and social success, while, at the same time, assuring the safety and well-being of all students, staff and school visitors. As such, the Board has adopted a multi-tiered system of support for behavioral health and wellness known as Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) as its framework for student conduct and standards for student behavior.

Expectations for student conduct and standards of behavior shall be communicated through written Board policies, as well as District and/or school rules. The rules for student behavior expectations are outlined in the School District's PBIS system and each school's applicable Student Behavior Expectations Matrix. The Matrix is found in each school's Student Handbook.

Student conduct that causes material or substantial disruption to the school environment, interferes with the rights of others, presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, or visitors, and/or violates the Student Behavior Expectations Matrix, or classroom rules is prohibited.

School District personnel who interact with students are expected to utilize progressive disciplinary measures and place emphasis on educating students so they may grow in self-discipline.

Suspensions and expulsions shall be administered consistent with the implementation of the PBIS model and the applicable Student Behavior Expectations Matrix and Board policy JICD.

B. PBIS and the Student Behavior Expectations Matrix

The School Board delegates to the Superintendent or designee, the responsibility of working with the appropriate building administration to implement the PBIS model of student behavior management. PBIS is a three-tiered, proactive framework of behavior

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support and prevention that utilizes school-wide approaches for standards of behavior; targeted supports for at-risk students; and individualized services for the highest-need students.

The Student Behavior Expectations Matrix for each school shall be submitted to the School Board for review each year as part of each school's student handbook. Consistent with the Board's statutory authority, and other Board policies regarding review of administrative rules, regulations and procedures, the School Board retains the authority to modify, supersede, or suspend any provision of the Student Behavior Expectations Matrix.

The Student Behavior Expectations Matrix shall include:

1. A graduated and age-appropriate system of supports and intervention strategies;
2. Graduated and age-appropriate disciplinary consequences for violations;
3. Provisions describing how and when short-term suspensions of up to 5 days, short-term suspensions up to 10 days, long-term suspensions up to 20 days, and/or expulsion should be imposed. These standards shall make reference to and reflect:
 - the nature and degree of disruption caused to the school environment;
 - the threat to the health and safety of pupils and school personnel, volunteers or visitors;
 - whether the conduct or behavior is isolated or repeated.

All temporary (same day) removal from classrooms or activities, restriction from activities, detentions, suspensions and expulsions shall comport with applicable laws, regulations and Board policy JICD.

4. Information regarding RSA 193:13, 193-D, this policy, Board policy JICD, and other Board policies or District/school rules regulating student conduct on and off-campus. Except where the complete text of a statute, regulation or policy is required, the Student Behavior Expectations Matrix should include age appropriate language for elementary, middle and high school grade levels.

C. Implementation and Notice.

The Superintendent shall assure that the Student Behavior Expectations Matrix, complete with the information set out in section B.4, above, shall be printed in full in each student handbook, made available to parents at the beginning of the school year, and is publicly available on each school's and the SAU's website.

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Additionally, building administration shall assure student awareness of the Student Behavior Expectations Matrix and other District policies and building rules through print, postings, periodic announcements, and age-appropriate presentations.

D. Parental Notification of Simple Assaults.

Pursuant to RSA 193-D:4, I (b), the Superintendent is directed to adopt and implement procedures requiring parents/guardians of each student involved in a simple assault (victim and perpetrator) occurring during the school day, when such assault causes: any form of bodily injury, including bruising or discoloration, or would otherwise constitute a disciplinable offense under the Student Behavior Expectations Matrix. For purposes of this policy, "simple assault" shall have the same meaning as that provided in RSA 631:2-a. RSA 631:2-a defines as *when one purposefully or knowingly causes bodily injury or unprivileged physical contact to another; or recklessly causes bodily injury to another or negligently causes bodily injury to another by means of a deadly weapon.*

E. Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities.

If a student is disabled under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), the New Hampshire RSA 186-C, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or any other law providing special rights to disabled students, those laws shall govern and shall supersede these local policies to the extent these local policies are inconsistent with those laws. Accordingly, any class or activity removal, suspension or expulsion of a child with a disability as defined in Ed 1102.01(t) shall be in accordance with Ed 1124.01.

Legal References:

RSA 135-F:5, System of Care for Children/Duties of Commissioner of Dept. of Education
RSA 193:13, Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils
RSA 193-D:4, Written Report Required
RSA 631:2-a, Simple Assault
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(f)(4), Student Discipline
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(g), Suspension & Expulsion
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.06, Culture and Climate
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 317.04(b), Disciplinary Procedures

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