

CODE OF CONDUCT: PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

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 District facilities, equipment and property.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District 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 Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on District property or engaged in a District function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these District rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

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

I. Engage in conduct that is disorderly and/or disrupts the normal operation of the school community.

Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- B. 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.
- C. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, abusive, or threatening.
- D. Display or use of personal electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell_phones, i-pods, or digital cameras in a manner that is in violation of district policy.
- E. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, cell phones, i-pods, digital cameras, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; any other violation of the District's *Acceptable Use Policy* or use of any electronic device to engage in harassing, bullying or sexting. Sexting is defined as sending sexually explicit messages, photographs, or videos electronically.

II. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate.

Examples of insubordinate conduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other District employees in charge of students, or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
- B. Missing class, leaving school without permission, chronic lateness and/or absenteeism.
- C. Failing to report for detention.

III. Engage in conduct that is violent.

Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other District employee or attempting to do so.
- B. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person on District property or attempting to do so.
- C. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on District property or at a District function.
- D. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
- E. Threatening to use any weapon.
- F. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other District employee or any person on District property, including graffiti or arson.
- G. Intentionally damaging or destroying District property.

IV. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.

Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Lying or withholding information to impede inquiry or investigation by proper authority.
- B. Stealing, misappropriating, or misusing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person on school property or attending a school function.
- C. Defamation, which includes making false 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.
- D. Discrimination, which includes the use of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnic group, gender, genetic predisposition, marital status, national origin, parental status, physical characteristics, race, religion, religious practice, sex, sexual orientation, or weight as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
- E. Harassment, which includes a 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 or demeaning.
- F. Intimidation or bullying, which include engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in emotional distress or fear of bodily harm.
- G. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any District sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
- H. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
- I. Using obscene or abusive language or gestures.
- J. Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
- K. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing, manufacturing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances*, or synthetic versions thereof whether specifically illegal or not, or being under the influence of such substances on District property, at a District function, on a school bus, or when representing the school district.
- L. Gambling.
- M. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body.

* "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."

- N. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
- O. Forging any school related document or correspondence.

V. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus or at a designated school bus stop.

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 will not be tolerated.

VI. Engage in any form of academic misconduct.

Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Plagiarism.
- B. Cheating.
- C. Copying.
- D. Altering records.
- E. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

Great Neck Public Schools

Adopted: 6/25/01

Amended: 7/6/04; 12/14/09; 10/15/12; 4/8/13