**GUILDERLAND**

**5300.30**

**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 school facilities and equipment with the goal of making school a community free of violence, intimidation, bullying, harassment, and discrimination. Exclusion from the school environment and suspension will only be used when necessary to protect the safety of students and staff or when all other measures have been exhausted.

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 mistakes or misbehavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on educating students so that they may learn from their behavior and grow in self-discipline.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student behavior while on school property or engaged in a school function specific, clear, and consistent. 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 school rules will be required to accept the consequences for their behavior.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including, in extreme or repeated occurrences, suspension from school, when they:

A.  Engage in conduct that is disorderly.  Examples of this type of behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Running or otherwise unsafe behavior 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.

1. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from a teacher, coach, advisor, or the administrator in charge of the building.
2. 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’s acceptable use policy.

B. Engage in conduct that deliberately goes against what a student has been asked to do or where they are supposed to be at any given time. This behavior is considered insubordinate. Examples of this type of behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees or demonstrating belligerence or disrespect.

2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission.

1. Skipping detention.

C. Engage in conduct that prevents others from being able to learn, focus, or be engaged in their work. This behavior is considered disruptive.  Examples of this type of behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Display or use of personal electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones, music or video players, cameras, in a manner that is in violation of district policy.

2. Inappropriate sexual contact.

D. Engage in conduct that is violent.  Examples of this type of behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator, other school employee, another student or any other person lawfully on school property.

2. 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.

3. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.

4. Threatening to use any weapon.

5. 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.

6. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.

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

1. Attempting to engage in or perform an act of violence noted in Section D.
2. 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 or emotional injury.
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 (including traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles like braids, locks, and twists), color, creed, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, sex, gender (identity and expression), sexual orientation, weight, disability/ability, or socio-economic status to deny rights, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to others.
6. Harassment (or Bullying), is the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or threats, intimidation or abuse.  (See policy, 0115, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention for a more complete definition.)
7. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily or emotional harm.
8. Hazing, which includes an induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment (see policy 0115 for a more complete definition).
9. Selling, using, distributing or possessing obscene material.
10. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
11. Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette (i.e., vape), or using chewing or smokeless tobacco, or smoking/vaping/ingesting cannabis or concentrated cannabis (includes cannabis products) or smoking cannabinoid hemp (except for lawful medical cannabis use in compliance with state law and regulation).
12. Possessing, consuming, selling, offering, manufacturing, 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, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any synthetic version thereof, whether specifically illegal or not, commonly referred to as "designer drugs" which are substances designed and synthesized to mimic the intended effects and usages of, which are chemically substantially similar to, illegal drugs, which may or may not be labeled for human consumption.
13. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
14. Gambling.
15. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
16. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
17. Knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information to school staff.

F. Engage in misbehaviors otherwise prohibited by sections A-E of this section while on a school bus and to remain seated, keep objects and body parts inside the bus, obey the directions from the bus driver or monitor. Students are required 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.

G. Engage in any form of academic misbehavior.  Examples of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism.

2. Cheating.

3. Copying.

4. Altering records.

5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

H. Engage in off-campus misbehavior that interferes with or can reasonably be

expected to substantially disrupt the educational process in the school or a school

function. Such misbehavior includes, but is not limited to, threatening or

harassing students or school personnel through any means off-campus, including

cyberbullying (for a complete definition of harassment, bullying and

cyberbullying refer to policy 0115, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention

and Intervention).

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