

Policy JI- Student Rights and Responsibilities

Human rights accrue to all people simply because they are human. One's humanness cannot be denied because of temporary status as a student; nor should students be denied the opportunity to learn about and practice, in the school setting, behaviors that respect human rights, human dignity, equality, and safety.

Of equal importance is the right of school authorities, consistent with fundamental constitutional safeguards, to prescribe and control conduct in the schools. The difference between freedom expected by the students and the necessary restrictions of their actions in the rules set down by the schools to maintain good order can be bridged by appropriate conduct on the part of both.

Student Rights

1. Students have the right to a safe and equitable education relevant to their needs and abilities.
2. Students have the right to be treated with respect by other students and school staff.
3. Students have the right to assemble and express themselves through speaking, writing, distributing, wearing of displaying symbols of ethnic, cultural, or political values such as buttons, badges, emblems, and armbands or through their mode of dress or grooming, except that the principal, or designee, may regulate expression, provided there is a factual basis for believing a specific form of expression by a specific student is causing or will cause substantial disruption or school activities or constitutes a health or safety hazard. Students shall also have the right to refrain from expressing themselves in these student-originated activities.
4. Students have the right to lodge a complaint or grievance with their principal, designee, or other appropriate administrator, if they feel their rights have been violated. If the subject of the complaint or grievance is the principal, the complaint or grievance shall be made to the supervising instructional superintendent and/or "Safe To Tell".

Student Responsibilities

While on school grounds, in school facilities, in district-approved vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school-sponsored events, the responsibilities of students shall be as follows:

1. To help maintain an overall atmosphere conducive to learning, and to respect the principle that no student shall engage in any activity that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the school operation and/or interfere with the educational rights of others.
2. To refrain from any conduct which discriminates against other students on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex/gender, marital status, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity.
3. To respect all members of the school community, including other students, parents, and district staff by refraining from using disrespectful language and gestures.

4. To promote the physical safety and personal security of all others by refraining from assaultive behavior, including fighting with students, staff, or other persons.
5. To treat the property of the school district with care and to refrain from stealing or damaging any property of the district, staff, or other students.
6. To personally refrain from, and discourage others from bringing, carrying, possessing, or using any kind of weapon.
7. To refrain from using, possessing, buying, selling, or exchanging alcohol, narcotics, drugs, or controlled substances, including anabolic steroids and prescription drugs or other dangerous drugs and to refrain from selling or exchanging substances with the student represents as drugs or controlled substances.
8. To attend classes, be on time, and attempt to complete graduation requirements as prescribed by the Board of Education.
9. To return all district property to the school, or reimburse the school at replacement value of each item, prior to transfer from the district, grade level change within the district, or graduation.
10. To practice honesty in academic work and in all other transactions.

Policy JK and JK-R shall control student discipline.

Adopted: June 17, 1999

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