

VOLUSIA COUNTY SCHOOLS NEW DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the school board may revise the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. The code shall be applied in a uniform manner throughout the school district. The code should be shared with all parents, students, teachers, and administrators.

Each school is authorized to attach local school rules to the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline as long as such rules and regulations do not conflict with this code.

Introduction

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is intended to address the responsibilities and requirements in regard to student discipline set out in the following sections of the Florida Statutes: section 1006.7 – District School Board Duties Relating to Student Discipline and School Safety; section 1006.13 - Policy of Zero Tolerance for Crime and Victimization; section 1006.08 – District School Superintendent Duties Relating to Student Discipline and School Safety; and section 1006.09 – Duties of the School Principal Relating to Student Discipline and School Safety. The purpose of this code is to make available to school personnel, students, and parents/guardians rules governing student conduct and discipline adopted by the School Board of Volusia County in order to ensure that:

1. students will understand what behavior is expected of them as well as the range of consequences for this misbehavior
2. students will be assured of fair and consistent treatment and will understand the procedures for discipline and appeal
3. schools will identify students in need of additional behavioral support and provide positive intervention(s) matched to their needs.
4. schools will inform parent/guardian if more intensive, positive behavioral interventions are required.

As we are all aware, discipline should be restorative and logical so that it makes sense to everyone involved. Teaching students to really think about how their behavior affects others and how they can repair it is the key.

It is the expectation of the School Board, the superintendent, and all of Volusia County employees that our students will conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified, and respectful manner. This expectation refers to their actions toward other students, all school district employees, their language, and their manners. Self-discipline is an interpersonal goal of public education as a whole.

As we all know, school achievement begins with regular attendance. We cannot teach them if they are not here.

Consequences of Missing School:

Drop-Out – students who are chronically absent fall behind in grade levels and drop out of school

Negative Behaviors – students who are chronically absent are at risk for other behaviors such as alcohol and drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and violence.

Most of All – Low Academic Performance – students who are chronically absent usually receive lower grades and perform poorly on standardized tests.

Remember, early intervention is very important. Please make sure you have followed the discipline expectations that you have clearly communicated at your school:

Students will understand what behavior is expected of them and the consequences they will face for misbehavior. Clear expectations are important. Students will be assured of the fair and consistent treatment and will understand the procedures for discipline.

Schools will identify students in need of additional behavioral support and provide positive interventions to match the students' needs.

Schools will inform parent/guardian if more intensive, positive behavioral interventions are required. This includes school-based and community services that are available.

Failure to bring materials and equipment to class, refusal to do homework, or refusal to work in class are not grounds for a discipline referral unless

classroom disruptions results from these acts. The teacher should notify the parent/guardian when a student exhibits poor work habits.

School Improvement Plan

Saving children is our mission. As we are all aware, discipline should be restorative and logical so that it makes sense to everyone involved. Teaching students to really think about how their behavior affects others and how they can repair it is the key.

As you begin to plan/develop your School Improvement Plan, please think about the culture for learning at your school. What strategies will you use to establish a culture for learning in your school; Restorative Practices, Positive Behavior & Support (PBIS), Leader in Me, Ruler, CHAMPS, etc. Please include the Behavioral Initiative that you plan to use on your campus in your written plan.

Investigations

Anytime there is an incident on your campus, statements should be taken from all parties and witnesses that are involved. Make sure the students that are making the statements are not housed in the same location so that the statements are as pure/truthful as possible. If there are adults involved or have witnessed the incident, they should write statements as well. Take statements and contact parents/guardians as soon as possible after the incident.

Level I (Minor Offenses)

Students should never be suspended for Level I and II (minor offenses). Offenses of this type should be handled by administration, parent/guardian, teacher, student, and the school counselor. Several violations can result in a P.A.S.S. assignment. Examples of level I and II minor offenses are listed below:

- Minor disruption
- Bus disturbance – minor disruption on school sponsored transportation
- Class or school rule violation

- Disruption – minor disruption or disturbance of a school activity, class, or campus
- Dress code violation
- False document
- Vehicle violation
- Horseplay
- Tardiness
- Excessive Absences
- Cheating (copying someone else’s assignments/writing answers on the hand, hidden notes, etc.)

Responses Level I Offenses - can include but are not limited to:

- Behavior Contract
- Cafeteria Restriction
- Community service in lieu of suspension
- Detention
- In-school detention (time-out to another class, lunch detention, etc.)
- Loss of privileges, extracurricular activities/events
- Mediation
- Parent/guardian conference
- Problem Solving Team (PST)
- Student services referral (i.e., school counselor, and school social worker)
- Suspension of Privileges
- Time Out
- Suspension should not be a consideration for Level I Offenses.
- **Parent/guardian contact required**

Level II – (Intermediate Offenses)

- Bus disturbance – considerable disruption on school sponsored transportation
- Cheating/Academic dishonesty/Plagiarism
- Disruption – considerable disruption or disturbance of a school activity, class, or campus
- Failure to appear for Saturday School, detention, or extended detention
- Gambling

- Introduction of a foreign substance (non-harmful) into food drink
- Laser lights
- Matches, lighters, or other flammables
- Possession of chemical spray under .5 oz
- Profane, obscene, or vulgar language or expression (in any language) verbal, written or by gesture directed at others
- Scuffle
- Telecommunications devices – the exhibition of either by sight or sound, or use of during normal school hours or while riding school sponsored transportation unless approved
- Tobacco products – use, possession, or distribution of. This also includes Vaping(considered a tobacco product.
- Unauthorized absence from class/leaving class or leaving school grounds without permission
- Vehicle violation – traffic citation

Level II – Responses

- Behavior Contract
- Cafeteria Restriction
- Community service in lieu of suspension
- Concern of harm referral
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- Loss of privileges: extracurricular events/activities
- Mediation
- Parent/guardian conference
- Problem Solving Team (PST)
- Restitution
- Saturday School
- Suspension from bus
- Suspension of privileges
- Time Out
- Tobacco citation
- Warning
- Work Detail
- **Parent Guardian Contact Required*****

Required Interventions for Level I and II Offenses

- **Warning**
- **Teacher/student conferences**
- **Parent/guardian contact and conferences**
- **Conference with School Counselor**
- **PST**
- **SEL Involvement**
- **PBIS – if your school is a PBIS school, RULER, CHAMPS, etc.**
- **Restorative Practices – this helps with improving behavior, restoring, and repairing relationships and provides effective leadership**

Level III Offenses (Major Offenses)

- Alcohol use, possession or under the influence
- Ammunition possession or distribution
- Assault on a student
- Battery on a student
- Bullying (including cyber-bullying)
- Drug Paraphernalia
- Drug Possession
- Fighting
- Forgery
- Gang activity
- Harassment
- Hitting/Striking
- Hitting/Striking an employee
- Inappropriate touching
- Major Campus Disruption requiring the intervention of numerous staff members/law enforcement
- Sexual battery

Responses to Level III Offenses can include but are not limited to:

- Civil Citation
- Saturday School
- Restitution

- Problem Solving Team
- In-school suspension
- Restitution
 - Concern of Harm
 - Suspension from school or bus (suspension must be considered for the possession of a common pocketknife)
 - Expulsion
 - Charges by Law Enforcement
 - **Parent/guardian contact required**

Level IV Offenses (Major Offenses)

- Alcohol – distribution or sale, or attempted sale (including substances represented as alcohol)
- Arson
- Assault on a school board employee
- Battery on a school board employee
- Bomb Threat
- Disorderly Conduct causing a major distribution
- Drug distribution, attempted distribution, sale, or attempted sale
- Explosives
- Firearm distribution, sale, use or willful possession
- Homicide
- Kidnapping
- Principal to a Level IV Criminal Act
- Riot
- Robbery
- Sexual Battery
- Vandalism over \$1,000
- Weapon use, threat, or possession
- **Parent/guardian contact required**

Please refer to the District Code of Student Conduct Manual for additional offenses and consequences.

Level IV - Responses

Parent/Guardian may request a conference with the principal for one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

- Administrative assignment to an alternative education program
- Expulsion (suspension pending expulsion, students will be suspended and will lose all privileges pertaining to extracurricular events and activities)
- Concern of Harm Referral
- Restitution
- Student Services Referral (i.e., school counselor, school social worker, or school psychologist)

The appropriate law enforcement agency must be notified if the offense involved is a criminal act under Florida Law.

Suspensions

Contact must be made with your assistant superintendent when students commit an offense which requires anything more than three days. We are aware that there are non-negotiables when it comes to suspensions and recommendation for expulsion.

Prior to 10-Day Suspensions, Referrals for Expulsion (not including the non-negotiables/zero tolerance offenses), any students that have been suspended at least three times, please make sure you have taken appropriate interventions/steps to assist students with support to manage their behavior. **Please make your assistant superintendent aware of all 10 Day suspensions and referrals for expulsion before they are assigned . Your assistant superintendent must be contacted whenever a student reaches nine days and/or three or more out of school suspensions.**

****If a student has met the criteria highlighted in the previous paragraph, please follow the instructions listed above****

Procedures Once A Student Returns from Suspension

All students returning from a suspension will require clearance from an administrator and school counselor. Talk about the “why’s of the offenses/consequences.

A re-entry meeting must be held with all students returning from 10-day suspensions or 3 cumulative out of school suspensions. This meeting should include the principal/assistant principal, parent/guardian, student, counselor, and your assistant superintendent.

Expulsions must be recommended to the District Placement Committee for all Level IV offenses. Unless otherwise recommended by the superintendent, expulsions for firearms shall be for no less than one calendar year.

Recommendation for Expulsion of Exceptional Student Education

Expulsions must be recommended to the District Placement Committee for all Level IV offenses. Unless otherwise recommended by the superintendent, expulsions for firearms shall be for no less than one calendar year.

Any recommendation for expulsion of any Exceptional Student Education Student (ESE) shall be made in accordance with the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education and Federal Regulations outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). For any ESE student charged with an expellable offense that could subject the ESE student to a change in placement, the IEP Committee must convene. The district shall provide parent/guardian of ESE students with written and verbal notice of their right to such a hearing.

******A student's IEP or 504 Plan must be considered when determining the response to a disciplinary infraction******

Wireless Communication Devices

The possession of wireless communication devices such as cellular phones, MP3 Players, iPods, video games, iPad, tablets etc. are not a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. However, having these devices on campus is a privilege. The following rules must be followed regarding the possession, use, and display of wireless communication devices:

Middle School Only**

- Students may not have their cell phones visible or in use once they arrive on campus until dismissal. No use of cell phones in the classrooms, hallways, restrooms or at lunch.
- Students who need to call home can do so from their grade level office phone. Parents may call in and ask for the grade level office if they need to leave a message for their child or if they need to speak to their child.
- Students must ensure that the telephone capabilities of their devices are turned off during the instructional day (i.e. ringer off, silent mode, cameras, videos etc.)
- Students shall avoid classroom disruptions by not displaying, using, or activating the data access portion of their wireless device during the instructional day unless instructed to do so by the teacher and/or authorized school personnel under the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) initiative. This includes during class, in the Media Center, P.E. and any other instructional/structured activities (unless authorized by the teacher).
- Use of cell phones that disrupts or interferes with the safety of our students being transported by bus is also a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.
- Use of cell phones to commit a crime is against the Code of Student Conduct and appropriate consequences will be handled accordingly.
- The school/district is not responsible if a student's wireless communication or any electronic device is lost or stolen.
- Any student using a cell phone or any electronic device for malicious intent or to video acts violating the Code of Conduct will be disciplined.

High School Only***

The possession of wireless communication devices such as cellular phones, MP3 Players, iPods, video games, iPad, tablets etc. are not a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. However, having these devices on campus is a privilege. The following rules must be followed regarding the possession, use, and display of wireless communication devices:

- Students will be allowed to use wireless devices before school, between classes, during lunch and at the end of the day.

- Students must ensure that the telephone capabilities of their devices are turned off during the instructional day (i.e. ringer off, silent mode, etc.)
- Students shall avoid classroom disruptions by not displaying, using, or activating the data access portion of their wireless device during the instructional day unless instructed to do so by the teacher and/or authorized school personnel under the Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) initiative. This includes during class, in the Media Center, restrooms, P.E. and any other instructional/structured activities (unless authorized by the teacher).
- Use of cell phones that disrupts or interferes with the safety of our students being transported by bus is also a violation of the Code of Student Conduct.
- Use of cell phones to commit a crime is against the Code of Student Conduct and appropriate consequences will be handled accordingly.
- The school/district is not responsible if a student's wireless communication or any electronic device is lost or stolen.
- Any student using a cell phone or any electronic device for malicious intent or to video acts violating the Code of Conduct will be disciplined.

It is our goal that every student has a right to learn in a safe and secure environment. It is essential that the school and the parents work together to assure that all students meet the high expectations of acceptable behavior and become successful contributors in our society.

Mandatory Face Coverings/Masks – Policy 503



Face
Coverings.503.pptx