

SYSTEM-WIDE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Ethical and responsible student behavior is an essential part of the educational mission of our schools. To that end, the School Committee has developed this System-Wide Code of Conduct with input from school staff, students, parents and the community. The Code defines our expectations for student behavior and provides the framework for an environment that is safe physically, socially, emotionally and academically, and that is orderly and respectful.

Article 1 – Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior

The Code of Conduct is intended to support and encourage students to meet the following statewide standards for ethical and responsible behavior:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Courage
- Compassion
- Fairness
- Responsibility

Article 2 – Code of Conduct

All students are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct and all related School Committee policies and school rules. The Code applies to students:

- On school property
- While in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or
- At any time or place, including on school buses, that such conduct directly affects with the operations or general welfare of the school.

Article 3 – General Behavior Expectations

The following expectations for student behavior are fundamental to a safe, orderly and respectful environment in our schools. Each student is expected to follow them.

Respect

- Treat others as you would like to be treated
- Use language that is appropriate and kind
- Use attentive listening when necessary
- Recognize and tolerate differences in others
- Avoid harmful behavior to self, others and property

Honesty

- Be truthful and forthright in speech and actions
- Never plagiarize (copy/use someone else's work without permission)

Courage

- Follow the code of conduct even when it's unpopular
- Try your best when you are challenged

Compassion

- Consider and respond to the feelings of others
- Try to help other people

Fairness

- Act without favoritism or prejudice
- Follow and apply the rules consistently

Responsibility

- Follow school and classroom rules
- Get your work done on time
- Give your best effort
- Take care of what belongs to you, to others and to the school
- Own and be accountable for your actions

Other

- Follow policies and school rules governing student conduct
- Attend school regularly

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary consequences depend upon the seriousness of the violation and the student's prior disciplinary record. Consequences will range from a verbal warning for minor misconduct up to and including expulsion for the most serious offenses. Behavior that also violates the law may be referred to law enforcement authorities.

*See policies: JK – Student Discipline
JKD – Suspension of Students
JKE – Expulsion of Students*

Article 4 - Expectations

The following is a summary of Maine Indian Education's expectations for student behavior. In many cases, the School Committee has adopted policies that address these expectations in greater detail. Students, parents and others should refer to the policies and student handbooks for more information about the expectations and consequences. In case of an inconsistency between the Code of Conduct, School Committee policies and/or handbooks, School Committee policies will prevail.

A. Violence and Threats

Students shall not engage in violent or threatening behavior. Prohibited behavior includes but is not limited to fighting, assault, and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property, or threats, intimidation, or harassment. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

*See policies: JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JICIB – Bomb Threats*

B. Weapons

Students shall not possess or use weapons, or look-alike weapons, of any kind (examples include but are not limited to firearms, explosives and knives). Students also shall not use any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce or harass another person (examples include but are not limited to bats, lighters, tools, and toy weapons). Firearms violations will result in expulsion in accordance with state and federal statutes; other weapons violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

See policy JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety

C. Hazing

Students shall not engage in hazing. Maine law defines injurious hazing as “any action or situation, including harassing behavior that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school.” No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in such activities in connection with any school program or activity, including co-curricular activities. Students who engage in hazing activities are subject to suspension, expulsion and/or other appropriate disciplinary measures.

See policy ACAD – Hazing

D. Discrimination and Harassment/Sexual Harassment

Students shall not discriminate against other students on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability. Nor shall students harass one another on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability. Sexual harassment is also prohibited. Harassment is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

*See policies: AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity
ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment*

E. Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

Students shall not distribute, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, drug, or look-alike substance as described in School Committee policy. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school. Students shall not smoke, use, possess, sell, or distribute any tobacco products. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school.

*See: Policy ADC – Tobacco Free Schools
Policy JICH – Student Assistance Policy for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
Procedure JICH-R Student Assistance Procedures for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other
Drugs*

F. Computer/Internet Use

Students shall use school computers, networks and Internet services only for educational purposes. Students shall comply with all policies and rules governing acceptable use.

Unacceptable use may result in suspension or cancellation of computer privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

G. Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

Students shall follow all policies and school rules while participating in co-curricular activities. Students may be subject to suspension or removal from the team/activity as well as additional disciplinary action under applicable School Committee policies and/or rules.

See procedures:

JICH-R–Student Assistance Procedures for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

Article 5 – Removal of Disruptive/Violent/Threatening Students

Students who are disruptive, violent, or threatening death or bodily harm to others may be removed from classrooms, school buses, or other school property when necessary to maintain safety. Staff members may use appropriate interventions to stop disruptive behaviors and/or unsafe situations, including restraint. When deemed necessary, law enforcement authorities should be called to restrain or physically remove the non-compliant student.

20-A MRSA § 4009 – Protection from Liability

Article 6 – Special Services

A. Referral

The Maine Indian Education Joint School Committee has adopted policies and procedures for determining when a student shall be referred for special services.

*See policies: IHBA – Referral/Pre-referral Policy
IHBAC – Child Find*

B. Review of Individual Education Plan

The school shall schedule an IEP meeting to review the IEP of a student who has been removed from class when: a) school officials and/or the parent believes the student may present a substantial likelihood of injury to himself/herself or others; b) the class removals are sufficient to constitute a change in the student's special education program; or c) school officials or the parent believes the student's behavior may warrant a change in educational programming.

See policy JKEA – Disciplinary Removals of Students with Disabilities

C. Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint.

The Maine Indian Education Joint School Committee has also established a policy on the use of time out rooms and therapeutic restraints as required by Maine statute.

*See Policy JICD – Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint
Procedure JICD-R – Procedures on Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint*

Article 7 – Referral to Law Enforcement Authorities

The Superintendent and administrators have the authority to seek the assistance of law enforcement authorities as necessary when there is a substantial threat to the safety of the schools, students or staff. The Superintendent/administration may also inform law enforcement authorities when they have reason to suspect that a student may have violated a local, state or federal statute. All serious offences, as determined by the Superintendent/administration must be reported to law enforcement authorities.

Article 8 – Dissemination of System-Wide Code of Conduct

The System-Wide Code of Conduct shall be distributed to staff, students, and parents through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. §§ 254 (11); 1001 (15)

Cross Reference: Taking Responsibility: Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior in Maine Schools and Communities (Report of The Commissioner for Ethical and Responsible Behavior, February, 2001)

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ITSC Adopted 5/11/10
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