

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Zero Tolerance

The Southwest Local School District has a policy of zero tolerance for violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior on the part of any student. Any student who engages in said conduct shall be subject to the disciplinary procedures set forth in the student code of conduct for violations of that code.

Violent behavior shall be defined as any behavior or act on the part of the student, either on or off school grounds, which causes, or has the potential to cause physical injury to any other person. Disruptive behavior shall be defined as any behavior by a student, either on or off school grounds, which causes a disruption in the good working order and educational mission of the school or any connected school activity. Inappropriate behavior shall be defined as any behavior by a student, which is the sole discretion of the appropriate school official, is not conducive to the creation, maintenance or fostering of an academic atmosphere. Included in these definitions, but by no means limiting the definitions is excessive truancy from school by any student.

In order to fully address these issues, the Southwest Local School District's Board of Education hereby appoints the Southwest Local administrators to formulate and establish strategies to curb the prohibited behavior on the part of the students. These strategies should specifically address the prevention of the types of prohibited behavior as well as a program of intervention on the part of the district personnel to prevent further prohibited acts.

This code of regulations is adopted by the Board of Education of the Southwest Local School District pursuant to 3313.66, Ohio Revised Code.

Conduct Code Violations

Any pupil engaging in the types of conduct either specifically or generally like the kinds of conduct listed below, on school premises, while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether on or off school premises, or at a school related activity regardless of location, may be subject to disciplinary action including emergency removal, or suspension, or expulsion or removal from curricular or extra-curricular activities pursuant to 3313.66, Ohio Revised Code.

The types of conduct prohibited by this code of regulations are as follows:

A. Advertisement

1. Distribution of pamphlets, leaflets, buttons, insignia, etc., without permission of school administration. Permission for the distribution of such materials shall be granted unless:
 - a. They are of the nature described under Obscenity, #3;
 - b. The time, place or manner of distribution would substantially interfere with the work of the school operation or infringe upon the rights of other students.
2. Placing signs and slogans on school property without permission of the school administration.
3. Sales or soliciting on school property without permission of school authorities.

B. Attendance

1. Truancy.
2. Tardiness (excessive or unexcused).
3. Leaving the school building during school hours without permission of the proper school authority.
4. Missing, skipping, or "cutting" of class (es).

C. Civil/Criminal Law

1. Commission of any crime on school premises or at a school activity in violation of the Ohio Criminal Code or the Ohio Juvenile Code or the Ohio Traffic Code.

D. Documents

1. Forgery on or of school related documents.
2. Falsifying information to school authorities.

E. Dress

1. Failure to abide by reasonable dress and appearance codes set by the administration or the Board of Education.

F. Educational Process

1. Any disruption or interference with school activities.
2. Chronic misbehavior which disrupts or interferes with any school activity.
3. Demonstrations by individuals or groups causing disruption to the school program.
4. Any other activity which a pupil knows or should know will disrupt the academic process of a curricular or extra-curricular activity.

G. Health

1. Presence on school property with a communicable disease.

H. Homework

1. Cheating or plagiarizing.

I. Obscenity

1. Use of indecent, abusive, or obscene language in oral, written, or symbolic form.
2. Engaging in sexual acts, indecent exposure.
3. Publication, distribution, or possession of obscene, pornographic, or libelous materials.

J. Physical

1. Assault, verbal abuse, or threat of physical harm to a school employee, student or other person.
2. Fighting.
3. Possession or use of dangerous weapons, instruments, fireworks, or firearms.

K. Property

1. Arson, or attempted arson, or setting unauthorized fires.
2. Turning in false fire, tornado, bomb, or disaster alarms.
3. Damage or destruction (actual or attempted) of school property.
4. Damage or destruction (actual or attempted) of private property.
5. Theft or possession of stolen goods.
6. Use of nuisance items. Radios, cassettes, personal stereos, tapeplayers, skates, skateboards, playing cards, cellular phones, laser lights, and pagers are considered nuisance items. Hats, headbands and visors are considered items of unnecessary dress and are not permitted.
7. Possession of matches or lighters or other similar devices.

L. Pupil Personnel

1. Hazing, bullying and/or intimidation activities of any kind.
2. Extortion.
3. Gambling.
4. Aiding another person to violate school regulations.
5. Public displays of affection between pupils - Public displays of affection between pupils are discouraged and prohibited as being inappropriate for a school setting. Pupils may hold hands, but embracing and kissing are strictly forbidden.
6. Harassment, bullying, intimidation, vandalism, physical or verbal abuse or the disruptive behavior toward other students.

M. Staff

1. Disregard of directions or commands by school authorities, including school administration, teachers, and non-certified staff.
2. Disrespect to school personnel.
3. Refusing to comply with minor punishment such as detention, writing assignments, etc., or repeated offenses of school regulations.
4. Harassment, vandalism, physical or verbal abuse, or other disruptive behavior toward school personnel including during non-school time.

N. Substances

1. Possession, distribution, or use of narcotics, alcoholic beverages, dangerous drugs, illegal drugs, inhalants, mind-altering substances, non-controlled drugs, drug paraphernalia or any other like-substances. This includes look-alike substitutes, and/or placebos carrying an implied or explicit representation as a drug.
2. Smoking, use or possession of any substance containing tobacco, including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, "dip", snuff, and chewing tobacco, or use in any other form.
3. Being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind.

O. Transportation

1. Failure to obey school driving and parking regulations.

2. Any type of prohibited activity listed herein taking place on a school bus shall be reason for removal, suspension, or expulsion.

P. Trespass

1. Presence in areas during school hours or outside school hours, where a student has no legitimate business.

Q. Gangs

1. Engaging in any act or acts by individuals or groups which may threaten the safety or well being of persons, affect the attendance of another student or disrupt the school environment.

Dangerous Weapons

The Board is committed to providing the students of the Southwest Local School District with an education environment which is free of the dangers of firearms, knives and other dangerous weapons in the schools.

The definition of a firearm shall include any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Sections 921-924), which includes but is not limited to any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas; bomb, grenade or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces; missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter (1/4) ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above.

Students are prohibited from bringing a firearm on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity, the Superintendent shall expel this student from school for a period of one calendar year. Any student who possesses a firearm which was initially brought onto school property by another person, may be expelled by the Superintendent, at his/her discretion. In addition, the Superintendent shall notify the appropriate criminal justice or juvenile delinquency authorities. Any expulsion shall extend, as necessary into the school year following the school year in which the incident occurred. The Superintendent may reduce this requirement on a case-by-case basis in accordance with State Law. Reasons for such reduction would include, but not be limited to, the expiration of the year occurring near the beginning of a school year, the nature of the weapon; manifestation of a student's disability and other mitigating circumstances.

Students are also prohibited from bringing a knife to or possessing a knife (which was initially brought by another person) onto school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity. The definition of a knife includes, but is not limited to a cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle. If a student brings a knife on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity, the Superintendent may expel the student from school, with the same expulsion implications as noted above.

Students who possess or use other dangerous weapons, which are defined but not limited to metal knuckles, straight razors, explosives, nervous irritation or poisonous gases, poisons, drugs or other items possessed with the intent to use, sell, harm, threaten or harass students, staff members, parents or community members, may be subject to expulsion.