

Code of Conduct Promotes a Positive School Atmosphere

Rochester students deserve a safe, orderly school environment in which they can do their very best.

That's why the Rochester City School District sets and enforces high standards of conduct for everyone in its schools.

The Code of Conduct, adopted by the Board of Education in 2001 and reviewed annually, describes the responsible behavior expected of students, school staff, parents, and visitors to schools. It is intended to ensure that all students can receive the quality education they are entitled to without disruption.

The following are answers to some commonly asked questions about the Code of Conduct as it pertains to students. The entire Code of Conduct is available on this website.

What rights do students have?

The Code of Conduct states that all students have the right to:

- Have a safe, orderly, and courteous school environment.
- Take part in all District activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, or disability.
- Access school rules and, when necessary, have those rules explained by school personnel.
- Present their side of the story to school personnel when involved in disciplinary matters.

What are the expectations for students?

According to the Code of Conduct, as a student you are expected to:

- Work to the best of your ability and strive toward the highest levels of achievement.
- Attend school every day and be in class on time and prepared to learn.
- Contribute to a safe and orderly school environment and show respect toward others.
- Follow the rules for appropriate student conduct, including the student dress code.
- Seek help from school staff in solving problems that might lead to disciplinary action.
- Treat teachers, administrators, and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
- Accept responsibility for your actions.

- Report to school officials any information that may help prevent danger or injury to others. Tell a teacher, principal, or other staff member, or use the District's Safety Hotline: **1-866-284-7040**.

What types of behavior are not allowed under the Code of Conduct?

The Code of Conduct prohibits student behavior that is:

- Violent—including assault, possession of weapons, bullying, use of threatening actions or words in person or by computer, and destruction of property.
- Disorderly—actions which disrupt the normal operation of the school or endanger the health, safety, welfare, or morals of others.
- Disruptive—actions which interfere with the education of other students or the ability of the teacher to teach.
- Insubordinate—failure to comply with school or District rules or the reasonable directions of school personnel.
- Dishonest—including cheating and plagiarism.

Can students bring cell phones to school?

No. For academic and other reasons, students cannot bring cell phones or devices with camera capacity to school.

What is the dress code for students?

All students are expected to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Inappropriate dress and appearance can be distracting and interfere with student learning.

The following are not appropriate on school property:

- Hats and other headwear (except for medical or religious purposes).
- Revealing clothing.
- Clothing that includes words or images that are vulgar, obscene, or disrespectful of others.
- Clothing that promotes the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs or that encourages illegal or violent activities.
- Clothing that reveals underwear. Pants should be held up with a belt of appropriate size for the student's waist.

Students who violate the dress code will be required to cover or remove the inappropriate item and, if practical, to replace it with an acceptable item. Students who refuse to do so will be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Can a student's locker be searched by school officials?

The Code of Conduct states that student lockers, desks, and other storage areas at school as well as computers and software may be searched at any time by school officials. Students are responsible for what is kept in their lockers.

The District also has the right to monitor e-mail, websites, and Internet access of students while at school.

In addition, the District has the right to search anyone on school property and any items they may be carrying, as authorized by state and federal law for persons entering public buildings. Anyone entering District property is deemed to have consented to such search. No one refusing such search will be permitted to remain on District property.

The majority of Rochester students conduct themselves in a respectful, civil manner and are committed to maintaining the safety and order of their schools. That commitment is key to the success of the Code of Conduct and of our students themselves.