

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education's goal is to provide an environment in which a student's rights and freedoms are respected. The Board therefore assures district students that they shall have all the rights afforded them by federal and state constitutions, statutes and regulations. The Board also recognizes all federal, state and local laws in connection with these rights, and reminds students that certain responsibilities accompany these rights.

It shall be the right of each district student:

1. to have a safe, healthy, orderly and courteous school environment;
2. to take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, sex, religion, national origin, or disability;
3. to attend school and participate in school programs unless suspended from instruction and participation for legally sufficient cause as determined in accordance with Education Law §3214;
4. to have school rules and conditions available for review and, whenever necessary, explanation by school personnel;
5. in all disciplinary matters, to have the opportunity to present his/her version of the facts and circumstances leading to imposition of disciplinary sanctions to the professional staff member imposing such sanction.
6. not to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:
 - a. political affiliations;
 - b. mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his/her family;
 - c. sex behavior and attitudes;
 - d. illegal, antisocial, self-incrimination and demeaning behavior;
 - e. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - f. legally recognized privileged and comparable relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
 - g. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program);

without the prior written consent of the student, if over 18 years of age, or without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian for those students under 18 years of age. However, such survey, analysis or evaluation may be conducted on a wholly voluntary basis, provided that the student and his/her parent/guardian have been notified of their rights and of their right to inspect all materials related to the above.

Students have the right to express their opinions on any subject while in school except where the exercise of this right:

1. materially and substantially interferes with the normal operation of the school;

2. clearly and immediately incites others to damage property or physically harm others; or
3. is slanderous, i.e., spoken maliciously, without regard to the truth of the assertion.

It shall be the right of each parent or guardian of a district student to inspect all instructional material, including teachers' manual, films, tapes, or other supplementary instructional material to be used..

Students have an obligation to express their views in an orderly fashion without interfering with the operation of the regular school program and without exerting undue pressure on their fellow students to join or contribute to specific causes or organizations.

The basic responsibility of a student is to become educated in accordance with "The Statement of Philosophy and Goals of the City School District." This responsibility includes regular school and class attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work and conformance with school rules and regulations.

It shall also be the responsibility of each district student:

1. to be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations pertaining to student conduct;
2. to work to the best of his/her ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward the highest level of achievement possible;
3. to conduct himself/herself, when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events, as a representative of the district and as such hold himself/herself to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship, and accept responsibility for his/her actions;
4. to seek help in solving problems that might lead to discipline procedures;
5. to be in regular attendance at school and in class;
6. to contribute to the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to learning and to show due respect to other persons and to property;
7. to dress in accordance with standards promulgated by the Board and the Superintendent; and
8. to make constructive contributions to the school, and to report fairly the circumstances of school-related issues.

Cross-ref: 5310, Student Discipline
8135, Safe Schools

Ref: Goals 2000: Educate America Act, P.L. 103-227, §1017 (Pupil Privacy Protection Act)
8 NYCRR §100.2(l)(1)(i)
Education Law §3214

Note: Prior policies, Policy Manual, JF and JFCK, revised
[The Commissioner's Regulations require Boards of Education to adopt a written policy regarding student rights and responsibilities.]

a*d