

**Regulation**

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CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

In order to provide students with the best possible learning environment, it must be safe, courteous and free of distractions. The Student Code of Conduct has been developed to inform all students, parents and guardians clear expectations of behavior and conduct.

The Student Code of Conduct is based on the guidelines enumerated by the Watchung Board of Education policy 5131 Conduct and Discipline.

Basic Principles of Positive Student Behavior

Students are expected to:

- A. Demonstrate behavior that promotes a safe and secure environment at all times;
- B. Conduct themselves in a way that allows all students to secure the full benefits of our instructional programs;
- C. Apply themselves in all curricular areas and set high standards for personal achievement;
- D. Be considerate of the thoughts, feelings and heritage of others;
- E. Show respect for the property of others;
- F. Follow directions and show respect for all supervising adults at all times and in all settings;
- G. Attend school and classes on a regular and punctual basis;
- H. Dress in a manner which reflects purpose and propriety;
- I. Resolve conflict in a positive and constructive manner.

Students are responsible to meet these behavioral expectations. Students shall respect the property of others, whether personal or school owned and right of others to receive an education in a safe, supportive and respectful environment, free of fear and intimidation.

General Behavior Requiring Discipline or Remediation

- A. Any act or behavior that places the individual or others in jeopardy shall be treated as a situation that may require disciplinary action;
- B. Any act or behavior that inhibits others from accruing the full benefits of our instructional program shall be treated as a situation that may require disciplinary action;
- C. Any act or behavior that causes others to feel threatened or intimidated shall be treated as a situation that may require disciplinary action;
- D. Any act or behavior that results in the loss or destruction of school or personal property shall be treated as a situation that may require disciplinary action; and

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- E. Any failure on the part of a student to respond to instructions from supervising adults (teacher, paraprofessional, and bus driver, principal) shall be treated as an act that may require disciplinary action.

Behavioral Issues and Situations

- A. Any item that is considered to be unsafe will be taken from students and kept in the office pending pick up from the student's parents;
- B. Our district observes a "zero threat tolerance rule". Any student who uses threatening language that implies serious harm to others will be reported to the Building Level Crisis Management Team. This committee will determine if the threat requires counseling, disciplinary steps and/or police involvement;
- C. The name of any student who brings a weapon to school will be submitted to the police. This notification will also include students who inadvertently bring such items as penknives and pocketknives to school. Knives of all sizes (no matter how small) will be considered a weapon;
- D. A pupil whose presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, may be suspended or expelled, following due process;
- E. Any pupil who commits an assault (as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1) upon a board member, teacher, administrator or other employee of the Board of Education shall be suspended from school immediately according to procedural due process, and suspension or expulsion proceedings shall begin no later than 30 calendar days from the date of the pupil's suspension;
- F. In accordance with statute and code, penalties shall be assigned for use, possession and distribution of illegal substances and drug paraphernalia. Infractions shall be reported to the local law enforcement agency in accordance with the district's memorandum of agreement. Confidentiality shall be protected in accordance with federal and state law;
- G. Any pupil who is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or a crime while armed with a firearm or found knowingly in possession of a firearm on any school property or on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function shall be immediately removed from the school's regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year. The Superintendent may modify this suspension on a case-by-case basis;
- H. Pupils are expected to treat each other with civility and respect, and acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying will not be tolerated. Like other disruptive or violent behaviors, this conduct interferes with a pupil's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe environment. The Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying against any pupil. Harassment, intimidation or bullying is defined as any gesture or written, verbal or physical act that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory handicap, by any other distinguishing characteristic, or for any other reason whatsoever.

General Disciplinary Steps and Consequences Grades K to 8

If given a choice, educators prefer to reason with students who exhibit negative behaviors. In many cases that involve minor infractions, negative behaviors can be eliminated through the use of positive and constructive discussions with the student. Unfortunately, this approach does not always prove to be effective.

When negative behaviors are either severe or frequently repeated, disciplinary steps must be taken.

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Usually, disciplinary steps will involve the deprivation of privileges; however, in cases of a severe nature, the student may be suspended from school, following due process.

The disciplinary action procedures that will be followed are prescribed by district wide policies and guidelines (policy 5131 Conduct and Discipline). The basic structure of this procedure is predicated upon the three disciplinary levels that appear below:

- First Incident:** Level One Teacher remediation or discipline that may include a warning, deprivation of some minor privilege.
- Second Incident:** Level Two Teacher remediation or discipline that may include deprivation of privileges, exclusion from classroom and school based activities such as assembly programs, detention, parent notification.
- Third Incident:** Level Three In addition to the steps noted above, exclusion from school sponsored activities such as class trips, sports activities, after school clubs, etc., referral to the principal or guidance counselor, parent notification.

After three months of no further incidents the student may, at the principal's discretion, return to "Level One".

\*\*\* For incidences of a severe nature, involving serious academic dishonesty, fighting, violence, vandalism, verbal abuse or harassment, intimidation and bullying, the principal and/or designee may override any or all of these steps. Severe acts of negative behavior can result in suspension from school, following due process.

Middle School Code of Student Conduct

INFRACTION	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense
<b>Abuse of Hall Passes</b>	Teacher detention	2 Teacher detentions	No more passes (unless medically excused)
<b>Bullying/Harassment/Bias</b>	Sent to administrator, parent notified, possible suspension, possible police notification		
<b>Bus Misconduct</b>	Loss of bus privileges for 1 week	Loss of bus privileges for 1 month	Loss of bus privileges as indicated by administrator
<b>Cheating</b>	Zero, parent notified by teacher		
<b>Cutting Class</b>	ISS (1 day), parents/guardian notified by the administrator	ISS (3 day), parents/guardian notified by the administrator	Possible ISS, parents/guardian notified by the administrator
<b>Damage to School Property</b>	Sent to administrator, parent notified, restitution, repair, possible suspension, possible police notification		
<b>Defiant, Disruptive, Disruptive Behavior</b>	Teacher detention, parent notified by teacher	Administrative detention, Parent notified by the administrator	Possible suspension, parent conference with teacher and administrator
<b>Disruptive for Substitute</b>	Teacher detention	2 Teacher detentions	Possible suspension, parent conference with teacher and administrator
<b>Endangering the Safety of Others</b>	Warning from teacher	Teacher detention, parent notified by teacher	Sent to the administrator, parent notified, possible

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			suspension
<b>Failure to Report to Administrative Detention</b>	2 administrative detentions	Possible ISS, parent notified by administrator	Possible OSS, parent notified by administrator (possible conference)
<b>INFRACTION</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Offense</b>
<b>Failure to Report to Teacher Detention</b>	2 teacher detentions, parents notified by teacher	Administrative detention, parent notified by teacher	Possible ISS, parent notified by administrator
<b>Fighting</b>	Sent to administrator, parent notified, possible ISS	Sent to administrator, parent notified, possible 2 ISS	Sent to administrator, parent notified, possible 3 ISS
<b>Food in Class (other than water)</b>	Teacher detention, parent notified by teacher	Administrative detention, Parent notified by the administrator	Possible suspension, parent conference with teacher and administrator
<b>Forgery</b>	Assignment of grade reduction, parent notified by teacher	Parent notified by teacher, class grade dropped 1 grade	
<b>Gambling</b>	Warning	1 detention, parent notified by administrator	Parent conference, possible police notification
<b>Hats</b>	Confiscated, retrieved from office at days end	Confiscated, retrieved from office at days end by parent	Confiscated, retrieved from office at year end
<b>Inappropriate Clothing</b>	Student sent to office, parent notification to bring appropriate attire		
<b>Inappropriate Sexual Contact (Harassment)</b>	Student sent to the office to meet with the administrator and guidance counselor, parents notified, possible suspension, possible police notification		
<b>Injury to Another Student</b>	Student sent to the administrator, parents notified, possible detention or suspension, police notification		
<b>Leaving Building without Permission</b>	Student sent to the administrator, parents notified, possible suspension, possible police notification		
<b>Use of Cell Phones, IPODS, MP3 Players, Gameboys, and Other Electronic Devices</b>	Confiscated, retrieved from office by the end of the week	Confiscated, retrieved from office by the end of the week by parent	Confiscated, retrieved from office at year end by the parent
<b>Possession of Fireworks</b>	Possible suspension, parent notification, possible police notification		
<b>Possession of Illegal Weapon(s), Imitation Weapon(s)</b>	Possible suspension, parent notification, possible police notification, counseling		
<b>Possession, Distribution or Use of Controlled Substances</b>	Possible suspension, parent notification, possible police notification, counseling, possible drug testing		
<b>Profane or Abusive Language</b>	Verbal warning	Parent notified by the adult who heard it	1 week detention, parent notified by administrator
<b>Smoking</b>	Parent notified	Possible suspension, counseling	Possible suspension, counseling
<b>Stealing</b>	Possible suspension, parent notification, possible police notification		
<b>Tardiness to School</b>	After the second (2) un excused tardy for the marking period, an administrative detention (1 day) will be assigned for each unexcused tardy thereafter		
<b>Tardy to Class</b>	Warning	Teacher detention, parent notified by	2 teacher detentions, parent notified by

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		teacher	teacher
<b>Threatening to Harm Staff or Another Student</b>	Sent to administrator, possible suspension, parents and police notified (depending on the severity of the incident)		
<b>Violating Privacy of a Teacher/Student</b>	Possible suspension, parent notified by teacher and/or administrator, possible police notification		

*Above consequences are subject to change and are at the discretion of the administrator.*