

Student Misconduct

The Board is committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment for all students and staff. The Board delegates to the school administration the authority to create and enforce school rules that serve this interest. The Board shall require the school administration to annually inform students and the school community of these rules, and the Principal shall submit these rules to the Superintendent for review prior to publication.

There are generally considered to be two categories of disciplinary offenses:

1. Poor/Irresponsible Behavior. These behaviors disrupt the learning environment or may create conflicts between students but do not result in injury or property damage. In applying consequences for this type of misbehavior, one goal is to see that the offending, distracting or disruptive behavior does not occur again, and another goal is to help students learn why their behavior was inappropriate.

Meeting these goals may require different interventions for children of different ages and temperaments. Consequences for misbehavior are usually applied by teachers and may include:

Verbal warning;
Changing the student's seating assignment;
Loss of a privilege (for example recess);
Assignment of an alternative work period instead of recess;
Assignment of a reflective writing task;
Short-term removal from the class; and
Short-term removal from the class with Principal intervention

Teachers will typically contact parents if misbehavior is repeated or has a negative effect on the student's school performance. If the student is sent to the Principal's office, a parent will be promptly contacted, usually by the Principal.

2. Serious or Dangerous Misconduct. In accordance with section 10-223 (revised) of the Connecticut General Statutes, all students are to receive annual notice of Board policies that govern student conduct. This Statute also provides that students may be suspended or expelled from school when "the pupil's conduct endangers persons or property and/or is seriously disruptive of the educational process and which conduct is in violation of a publicized policy of the Board."

Consequences for serious or dangerous misconduct may include, but are not limited to, the consequences listed above. The school administration may impose an out of school consequence such as suspension or expulsion in response to serious or dangerous misconduct. Whenever an exclusionary consequence is required for a student's serious misconduct, the student shall be provided due process in a manner described fully in Policy 5114.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
52-572 Parental liability for torts of minors. Damage defined.

Board Adopted: November 13, 2013