

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT 2002-03

ISSUE	CURRENT POLICY	PROPOSED CHANGE	RATIONALE
School Discipline Plans (Pages 3 and 5)	Currently school discipline plans are only mentioned in the Code of Student Conduct in reference to absences and tardiness.	Add notice about school discipline plans to Acknowledgement Form that parents sign so that parents know each school has a discipline plan with additional expectations for behavior.	The inclusion of school discipline plans on the Acknowledgement Form will increase parent awareness regarding school-based expectations.
Bus Misbehavior (Page 12)	The only bus misbehavior for which there is a standardized consequence is opening an emergency door.	Provide three levels of consequences for bus misbehavior, based upon the severity of the misbehavior. See attachment.	The current policy results in inconsistencies in the consequences for similar bus misbehaviors. For safety reasons, it is essential that consequences are consistent and enforceable. Levels of misbehaviors with specific consequences will provide clarity for parents and students and consistency among administrators.
Bus Misbehavior (emergency doors) (Page 12)	Consequence for emergency doors under Level Two refers to opening and exiting when the bus is stopped.	Add “/or” so that consequences at Level Two are a result of opening and/or exiting emergency doors when the bus is stopped.	The act of opening the emergency door is as dangerous as exiting from the emergency door so this change makes it clear that either or both behaviors are unacceptable.
Heelies Page 10	These shoes that convert to skates are not included in the current Code of Student Conduct.	Add heelies to the list of distracting items that students are prohibited from bringing to school.	Skates are currently prohibited and heelies are a new version of skates.

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Cell Phones and Pagers (p. 10)	Students are not allowed to possess or use electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones and pagers, during the school day.	Include a reference to the state statute (FS 569.11) that prohibits pagers. No changes related to cell phones are recommended.	If students are allowed to possess cell phones during the school day, administrators' time will be diverted from instructional support to deal with issues related to cell phone misuse and confiscation. Use of cell phones may interfere with law enforcement activities in the event of an emergency. (See attachment for a summary of the input on cell phones from a variety of groups, as well as the input gathered through the District's website.) To support the ban, schools must make phones accessible to students in cases of emergency and before and after school for legitimate purposes.
Other Forms of Harassment (Page 11))	Prohibits discrimination based upon School Board policy and federal civil rights legislation.	Adds references to harassment based upon physical appearance or for any other reason to the section of the Code that lists unacceptable behaviors	Harassment of any kind is unacceptable and in violation of School Board policy.
Harassment based upon physical appearance or for any other reason (Pages 13, 14 and 16)	Prohibits discrimination based upon School Board policy and federal civil rights legislation.	Adds harassment based upon physical appearance or for any other reason to the following sections of the Code: Dress Code; Discrimination and/or Harassment; and Right to Participate in Student Activities	Harassment of any kind is unacceptable and in violation of School Board policy. Additional references in relevant sections strengthen the policy.

ISSUE	CURRENT POLICY	PROPOSED CHANGE	RATIONALE
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act FERPA (Page 18)	Federal laws are the only ones referenced in the current Code of Student Conduct.	Add references FS 228.093 and to School Board Policy 5100.	Parents who want more detailed information will know where to find it.
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act FERPA (Page 18)	Information related to the release of information to specific organizations is not addressed in the Code of Student Conduct	Add notification to parents that students' names and addresses are released to the Armed Services and to community colleges and universities in the State University System. Tell parents to notify the principal if they do not want their child's information released to these organizations.	It is beneficial for students and parents to be aware of the post-secondary options; however, parents and students 18 years of age or older have a right to request that their names and addresses not be disclosed for this purpose. Policy 5100 authorized the release to the Armed Services, but the Code did not previously notify parents. They have a right to be informed and to "opt out." Policy 5100 is currently being revised and will also be updated to reflect this change.
Compulsory Attendance (Page 7)	FS 232.0201 on compulsory school attendance for 16-18 year olds is referenced but not quoted.	Add relevant sections of FS 232.0201 to the section on attendance.	Quotation from the statute will remind school personnel and parents that students who have reached the age of 16 cannot just terminate school enrollment without following mandated procedures.

4/29/02

Code of Student Conduct

Misconduct by any student while riding a school bus represents a serious threat to the safety of all occupants of the bus, as well as other motorists, pedestrians and members of the community. All rules that apply to the school grounds and school activities also apply to the school bus.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS ON A SCHOOL BUS LEADING TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION*

Level One

- Being disruptive, distracting or disobeying a bus operator
- Eating or drinking while on the bus
- Failure to utilize required safety equipment on the bus
- Getting out of seat while the bus is in motion
- Failure to sit in seat assigned by the bus operator
- Loud talking or remarks out of the bus window at other students, pedestrians or motorists
- Boarding or attempting to board a bus route other than the student's assigned bus route or attempting to leave the school bus at other than the student's assigned bus stop without permission of the school principal or designee
- Placing head, arms or legs outside window of bus

Level One Consequences

- **First Offense** Verbal or written reprimand from the school principal or designee;
 parent conference, when appropriate
- **Second Offense** 1-10 day suspension from school bus transportation
Repeated Offenses Level One unacceptable behaviors will be considered willful disobedience and/or open defiance of authority, resulting in suspension from the bus for the remainder of the school year and/or possible suspension or expulsion from school.

Level Two

- Opening a school bus emergency door and/or exiting the bus when the bus is stopped, unless directed by the school bus operator in an emergency or during an evacuation drill

Level Two Consequences

- **First Offense** 10-day suspension from school bus transportation
- **Second Offense** Suspension of school bus transportation for the remainder of the school year

Level Three

- Threats against the bus operator, bus attendant or passengers on the bus
- Profanity directed at the bus operator or bus attendant
- Fighting on the bus
- Smoking on the bus
- Opening a school bus emergency exit door while the bus is in motion
- Throwing objects out of the window of the bus, which may or may not cause injury to persons or physical damage
- Throwing objects at the bus after leaving the bus, which may or may not cause injury to persons or physical damage
- Vandalism of seats or other bus equipment

Level Three Disciplinary Penalty

- Suspension and/or possible expulsion from school.

*For IDEA-eligible disabled students, suspension and expulsions shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Individual Education Plan (IEP). Likewise, for students determined to be disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, suspension, expulsion, and other disciplinary measures shall follow applicable laws, School Board policies, and provisions of the Section 504 Accommodation Plan.

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