

SUMMARY of SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2005

POLICY #: School Board Policy 5.8

POLICY TITLE: Code of Student Conduct 2005-2006

Page (Item)	Recommended Change/Addition/Deletion	Rationale
Book Format	No change	Current version is of great assistance to parents and staff; rules are clear.
Discipline Matrix Pages 1, 10, 21, 30	Wherever the book has previously referenced, “the school’s discipline plan is available to parents upon request,” the following will be added: “the district’s discipline matrix that assigns specific consequences for misbehavior and is part of the school’s discipline plan is available to parents upon request.”	Recognizes that the discipline matrix exists and is districtwide. The current language is “school discipline plans that assign specific consequences for misbehavior are school-based and are available to parents upon request.”
Policies Cited within the Code Pages 5, 7, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31	All references to policies will cite the website address to access School Board policies and give a brief overview of the important information within the policy for parents and students.	Policy name is not enough information for parents, especially those without web access.
Silence Hurts (Inside Cover)	Include full-page SILENCE HURTS poster inside front cover. Committee members will be moved to the back inside cover.	Vital information for the safety of students that will be displayed prominently and be easy to access.
Notice to Parents Page 1	***IMPORTANT*** ... Parents ... sign and return the Acknowledgement Form within three (3) days ...	Reinforces the importance of parents reviewing the district’s expectations of students and signing and returning the Acknowledgement Form.
Acknowledgement Form Page 5, 7	“Ensure that their children demonstrate legal and responsible use of technology as defined in Section VII of this booklet, including but not limited to e-mail and Internet research. (See page 19.)”	Reiterates the importance of knowing the rules regarding appropriate Internet usage, as students become more and more Internet savvy.
Acknowledgement Form Page 5, 7	Elimination of the social security number.	FSI numbers have replaced social security numbers on student records.

PLANNING DOCUMENT

2

2.2% Deduction for Unexcused Absences Page 11	Eliminate #4 that allows teachers to reduce grades by 2.2% for unexcused absences.	Punitive and not effective in reducing unexcused absences. Unexcused absences can be the result of poor communication or other circumstances rather than students intentionally missing school. This is especially true of students at-risk.
Make Up Work Page 12	<p>Add to #1, "These deadlines may be extended by the principal for extenuating circumstances."</p> <p>Add to #6, "When an absence is unexcused, work may not be made up. <u>The principal has the discretion to allow for exceptions to this policy.</u>"</p>	Unexcused absences can be the result of poor communication or other circumstances rather than students intentionally missing school. This is especially true of students at-risk. The additional language provides principals with discretionary authority.
JIF Page 13	Name change from JIF to JAC.	Name change for this facility.
Tardiness Page 13	<p>Definition: A student not being in the classroom at the time published by the School Board for classes to begin at that school. A tardy is excused for the same reasons that an absence is excused with the addition of a traffic delay or road accident. Parents must follow the same process to excuse a tardy as they do to excuse an absence.</p> <p>Eliminate #2 since tardiness will be considered excused for the same reasons as an absence is excused with the addition of traffic delays and road accidents.</p>	Attendance Committee recommendation. (Committee asks that data be considered next year to determine if tardiness increases as a result of these changes.)
Respect for Persons and Property Pages 14-16	<p>Violations on pages 14-16 have been reordered for clarity. Groups are headed to be consistent with the district's discipline matrix.</p> <p>Add to Rights and Responsibility, "Students have the right to privacy." (Page 14)</p> <p>Add camera phones to bullet #4 wherever there is a reference to cellular telephones. (Pages 14, 15, 22)</p>	<p>Customer-friendly.</p> <p>Concern about camera phones and the violation of privacy rights.</p> <p>Camera phones are a nuisance and a disruption to learning. They may also be used to commit other violations, including privacy rights or cheating.</p>

PLANNING DOCUMENT

3

	Add a bullet to Unacceptable Behaviors, "Taking, possessing, displaying or distributing pictures using a camera phone during the school day. Use of a camera phone may result in additional consequences beyond confiscation if used to take pictures that are pornographic or obscene or to break other school rules or the law." (Page 15)	There will be a double penalty for students who use camera phones that violate additional rules, i.e. possession of pornography.
Over-the-Counter Medications Page 15	Add "Transmittal of over-the-counter medications" as a violation of the rules.	One student giving an over-the-counter medication to another student can cause serious harm. This will be included in SB Policy 6305 when amended prior to the beginning of school year 05-06.
Cyber-bullying Page 15	Add to cyber-bullying during school hours, on school grounds and using school technology to the list of violations.	Responsible use of technology that includes safeguards to protect students.
Dress Code Page 20-21	<p>Eliminate zoris and flip flops from #1 (styles of shoes) and add to #5 (beachwear).</p> <p>Eliminate thonged sandals.</p> <p>Revise #5 Garments, including but not limited to pajamas, boxer shorts, bloomers, and bustiers, which are traditionally designed as undergarments, sleepwear or beachwear, may not be worn as outer garments. Likewise, footwear traditionally designed as sleepwear or beachwear, including but not limited to bedroom slippers, zoris and flip flops, are also not allowed.</p> <p>Add to #11, wallet chains to the list of clothing and jewelry that are not allowed because they may cause injury.</p> <p>Under Rights, change "distract or offend others" to "create a substantial and material disruption of the school."</p> <p>Define overblouses (#3 and #5) as long shirts, a term that is more descriptive.</p>	<p>No safety data is available to support listing thonged sandals. Flip-flops and zoris, normally worn as beachwear, will be covered in #5.</p> <p>Grammatically correct and encompasses shoes that were eliminated from #1 for safety reasons but are rather not allowed because they are inappropriate (beachwear).</p> <p>Wallet chains present a danger especially in centers and middle schools as students swing them and pull on them without intent to use them as weapons, ye they may cause injury.</p> <p>Per School Board attorney as a result of ACLU recommendations.</p> <p>Per School Board attorney as a result of ACLU recommendations.</p>

PLANNING DOCUMENT

4

	Eliminate “offensive” from the language in #7 and define “suggestive, revealing and indecent” in #4 and #7. Add as a note “Suggestive, revealing and indecent refer to exposure of private body parts and/or pictures or words with a sexual connotation.”	Per School Board attorney as a result of ACLU recommendations.
Technology Page 22	Add in the box, “Using technology, including but not limited to, computers, networks, online telecommunication systems, cellular telephones and camera telephones to bully or libel another student or staff member is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct and will result in disciplinary action.”	Emphasizes the importance of using technology responsibly and increases awareness of the additions of camera telephones and cyber-bullying to Unacceptable Behaviors, proposed for 05-06.
Directory Information p. 26-27	Informs parents of the types of information that may be released to military and college recruiters and to law enforcement and government agencies and the procedure to opt out of providing this information.	Per School Board attorney.
Self-Defense Page 32	Eliminate from paragraph #1 under Offenses Leading to Mandatory Expulsion any inference that a weapon may be used in self-defense: “when the principal determines that an object or instrument covered in Definition of Weapons (page 29) was used solely for the purpose of defense against an aggressor ...”	Consistent with School Board Policy 5006: Suspensions/Expulsions. Weapons are never appropriate.