JK - Student Discipline

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It is essential for schools to maintain a safe and orderly environment which supports student learning and achievement. Effective discipline allows the schools to discharge their primary responsibilities to educate students and promote good citizenship. All students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Board of Directors policies, school rules, and applicable state and federal laws. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate policies, rules, or laws, and/or whose conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

Students are expected to show courtesy and consideration for others which contributes to the harmonious atmosphere of the school at all activities including athletic events, field trips, assemblies and school sponsored programs.

The Board expects the following principles to guide the development and implementation of school rules and disciplinary procedures:

1. Discipline should emphasize positive interventions and expectations for appropriate behavior, as well as appropriate consequences for misconduct. The focus should be on instructional and environmental supports that are designed to teach students prosocial alternatives to problem behaviors, with high rates of feedback.
2. Expectations for student behavior should be clear and communicated to school staff, students and parents.
3. Positive and restorative interventions should be used to the extent feasible. Consequences for misbehavior should be in proportion to the offense, fair and consistently enforced. Administrators shall have the discretion to tailor discipline to the facts and circumstances of the particular case.
4. Parents should be actively involved in the process of preventing and resolving disciplinary problems at school.

Any restraint or seclusion of students shall comply with applicable regulations and Board policy.

Recess may not be withheld as a consequence for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct for any student in grade five or below, except that when there is no alternative time available, recess time may be used for restorative interventions related to the student’s conduct.

Physical force and corporal punishment shall not be used as disciplinary methods. State law provides that "a teacher or other person entrusted with the care or supervision of a person for special or limited purposes may not be held civilly liable for the use of a reasonable degree of force against the person who creates a disturbance if the teacher or other person reasonably believes it is necessary to a) control the disturbing behavior; or b) remove the person from the scene of the

disturbance."

Teachers are authorized to make and enforce rules for effective classroom management and to foster appropriate student behavior, subject to the direction and approval by the Principal/designee.

School-wide rules shall be developed by the building principal with appropriate input from school staff, students and parents and subject to approval by the Superintendent. Principals shall provide for the suspension or other serious disciplinary action against students in accordance with Board policies, administrative procedures and Maine law.

Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state law/regulations.

To reduce disciplinary problems and the potential for violence in the schools, the Superintendent may develop procedures for conflict resolution which may be accomplished through peer mediation, counseling, parent involvement, services of community agencies or other activities suitable to the school unit.

Legal References:

17-A MRSA § 106

20-A MRSA §§ 1001 (15A); 4009

Cross References:

AC - Nondiscrimination

ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students

EBCA - Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

JIC - Student Code of Conduct

JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety

JKAA/JKAA-R - Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion

JKD - Student Suspension

JKE - Expulsion of Students

JKF - Disciplinary Removals of Students with Disabilities

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