

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Expectations

Sweetwater County School District Number One:

1. Acknowledges its obligation to provide every student the opportunity to learn in a setting which supports each student's physical and emotional well-being.
2. Strives to help students acquire the behaviors which are necessary for assuming the roles of responsible citizens, productive workers and conscientious neighbors.
3. Recognizes that the creation of an atmosphere which models these civic values and the maintenance of such a safe and orderly environment requires preserving time to teach.

To these ends, Sweetwater School District Number One expects every student to:

1. Practice consideration for others.
2. Respect the rights of others.
3. Respect the property of others.
4. Cooperate with authorities in a respectful manner.
5. Acknowledge and obey rules and procedures.
6. Contribute to a drug free school setting.
7. Refrain from participation in any illegal activities outlined in city, state or federal ordinances, statutes or laws.
8. Refrain from the use of foul, profane or abusive language.
9. Practice conflict resolution skills as an alternative to physical violence or the use of weapons.

Grounds

To establish a safe and orderly school setting which supports teaching and learning, the following behaviors constitute violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

1. Insubordination, including a student's overt refusal to obey the directive of a school authority.
2. Disobedience, including the intentional and/or repeated violation of school rules.
3. Other misconduct including classroom, school or campus behavior which materially disrupts the classroom or involves substantial disorder or invasion of rights of others.

Consequences

1. When a student displays such insubordination, disobedience and/or other misconduct, the teacher, administrator, or other District personnel may apply consequences outlined in an individual classroom discipline plan approved by a building principal or designated disciplinarian and/or shall apply building level consequences subject to the limits of the Student Code of Conduct.

2. When a student displays such insubordination, disobedience and/or other misconduct that places the student's or another student's educational success in jeopardy, the legal parent or guardian shall be notified.
3. Consequences for students receiving services through state or federal programs including IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act will be assigned in compliance with all such program regulations.

Administrative Action:

Grounds

To maintain a safe and orderly school setting which supports teaching and learning, the following behaviors constitute violations of the Code of Student Conduct and are grounds for suspension or expulsion.

1. Continued willful disobedience or open defiance of the authority of school personnel. Wyo. Stat. §.21-4-306(a)(i).
2. Willful destruction or defacing of school property during the school year or any recess or vacation. Wyo. Stat. §.21-4-306(a)(ii).
3. Any behavior which in the judgment of the board of trustees is clearly detrimental to the education, welfare, safety or morals of other pupils.
 - (a) the use of foul, profane, or abusive language or habitually disruptive behavior, defined as overt behavior willfully initiated by a student causing disruption in the classroom, on school grounds, on school vehicles or at school activities or events, which requires the attention of a teacher or other school personnel Wyo. Stat. §.21-4-306(a)(iii)(b).
 - (b) possessing, using, manufacturing, or distributing of tobacco products, alcohol, controlled substances, drugs, unauthorized medication, look-alike drugs or drug related paraphernalia in violation of Wyoming law, while on school property, in transit to or from school, at a school function, or while a participant in any activities sponsored, sanctioned or controlled by the school or the Wyoming High School Activities Association, whether on or off school property as defined in Policy JFCI.
 - (c) knowingly aiding, abetting or assisting another student in concealing the possession, use, manufacturing, or distribution of any tobacco products, alcohol, controlled substances, drugs.
 - (d) stealing or attempting to steal property.
 - (e) cheating, forging, falsifying school documents, and/or plagiarism.
 - (f) gambling and/or extortion.
 - (g) harassment, bullying or violence as defined in Policy JFCL.
 - (h) making bomb threats, making terroristic threats or making false fire or other emergency alarms.
 - (i) displaying profane or obscene gestures or wearing profane or obscene clothing or apparel.
 - (j) using or threatening to use objects intended for other purposes to inflict bodily harm or to intimidate as defined in Policy JFCJ.

4. Torturing, tormenting or abusing a pupil or in any way maltreating a pupil or a teacher with physical violence. Wyo. Stat. §.21-4-306.
5. Possession, use, transfer, carrying or selling a deadly weapon as defined under Wyo. Stat. §6-1-104 within any school bus as defined by Wyo. Stat. § 31-7-102(a)(xi) or within the boundaries of real property used by the District primarily for the education of students in grades kindergarten through twelve (12) as defined in Policy JFCJ.

Consequences

1. A principal or designated disciplinarian may suspend a student for up to ten (10) days under the guidelines of due process stated herein.
2. The Board of Trustees may:
 - (a) suspend a student for over ten (10) days but not to exceed one (1) year, under the guidelines of due process stated herein and the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act. Wyo. Stat. § 21 -4-306
 - (b) expel a student for up to one (1) year under the guidelines of due process stated herein and the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-306
3. Suspension from school will include suspension from school-sponsored activities which occur during the time of suspension and may include the suspension of the privilege to participate in school- sponsored activities/athletics according to secondary activities/athletic handbook guidelines or established elementary school guidelines, in accordance with Code of Student Conduct.
4. In addition to school consequences, students may also be subject to consequences of local, state and federal law.
5. Consequences for students receiving services through state or federal programs including IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act will be assigned in compliance with all such program regulations.
6. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C.A. § 1243g) and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C.A. § 7165), disciplinary records pertaining to suspension or expulsion of students from school shall be transferred, along with other educational records, to any private or public elementary school or secondary school for any student seeking to or intending to or enrolling in the school.

Guidelines for Determining the Length of Suspension:

The determination of the length of suspension will include, but not be limited to, the following factors.

1. The extent to which the violation interferes with other students' opportunity to learn.

2. The extent to which the violation jeopardizes a safe and orderly environment, placing others at physical and/or emotional risk.
3. The extent to which the violation interferes with any personnel's performance of duty and the frequency or reoccurrence of the behavior.

Assignment of Expulsion Rather than Suspension:

Severe infractions of the Code of Student Conduct, outlined as grounds in the Administrative Action, may result in expulsion, as approved by the School Board of Trustees and implemented under the requirement of the Wyoming Procedures Act.

Due Process Provisions for Suspension:

- A. The disciplinarian shall give the student to be suspended oral or written notice of the charges against him and an explanation of the evidence the authorities have. Wyo. Stat § 21-4-305(b).
- B. The disciplinarian shall give the student to be suspended an opportunity to be heard and to present his version of the charges against him. No student shall be removed from school without such notice and opportunity to be heard, except as provided by subsection (c) of this section. Wyo.Stat. § 21-4-305(b).
- C. The disciplinarian shall give the student to be suspended the opportunity to be heard as soon as practicable after the misconduct, unless the student's presence endangers persons or property, or threatens disruption of the academic process, in which case his immediate removal from school may be justified, but the opportunity to be heard shall follow as soon as practicable, and not later than seventy-two (72) hours after his removal, not counting Saturdays and Sundays. Written notice of suspension shall be sent to the student's parent guardians or custodians within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision to conduct them. Wyo.Stat. § 21-4-305(c).

In addition to the provisions for due process outlined in Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-305, if the disciplinarian or student so requests, an observer will attend the disciplinary conference where the student is informed of the charges against him and the evidence the authorities have. The observer will be a certified staff member with prior knowledge of his/her role in the discipline process, to include the responsibility for documenting that:

1. The disciplinarian informed the student of the charges and presented the evidence.
2. The disciplinarian requested and listened to the student's point of view and answered the student's questions about the charges and the evidence.
3. The student was treated in a fair manner.

Unless immediate suspension is required under the provisions of subsection (c) of Wyo.Stat. § 21-4-305, following the notification of the disciplinarian's assignment of consequences, parents may seek additional information and explanation of the charges, evidence and documentation that the student's right to be fairly informed and heard was upheld.

Due Process Provisions for Extended Suspension and Expulsion:

The Board of Trustees of any school district or the superintendent if designated, may suspend a student for a period exceeding ten (10) school days or may expel a student for a period not to exceed one (1) year, provided the student is afforded an opportunity for a hearing in accordance with the procedures of the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act. Wyo. Stat. § 16-3-101. Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-305(d).

Implementation

In accordance with Wyoming Statutes and Local Board Policy, the code of Student Conduct will be implemented by:

1. Communication of the Code of Student Conduct to students and parents through its publication in each school's handbook.
2. Enforcement of student expectations through the application of consequences as outlined in state statutes and Board policy.
3. Staff development designed to and support the Code of Student Conduct-for teachers, administrators and other district personnel.

Adopted: 3/091998

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