

Students

Conduct

Each student is responsible as a citizen to observe the laws of the United States, the State of Connecticut, the City of New Haven, and the policies and regulations as set forth by the New Haven Board of Education.

Students shall be properly instructed in rules and regulations of acceptable conduct; they shall then be responsible for understanding and complying with the standards of behavior described therein. Any student who fails to comply with these rules and regulations concerning student behavior is liable to suspension, exclusion, or expulsion.

School officials are required to maintain a school atmosphere conducive to education. Courts will uphold school rules and regulations designed to maintain order so long as they are not unreasonable or arbitrary, do not infringe upon constitutional rights, and are not vague.

In particular, the criminal code violations refer to: arson, extortion; sexual offenses; possession, use or sale of drugs and alcohol; disturbing the peace; trespass; injury (non-accidental) to persons or property; theft; registering false fire alarms; bomb threats; gambling; vandalism; and any other misdemeanor or felony.

Incidents appearing to involve any action falling into the categories listed above will be investigated by the school principal, or his/her designee. The principal will collect physical evidence, take statements from witnesses, and give the student an opportunity to present his/her side of the incident at a hearing at which the parents or an adult advocate may be present. If the student is clearly implicated in such wrongdoing, he/she will be suspended, the matter will be referred to the police and in grievous cases, the principals shall recommend expulsion.

A student who is in possession of, threatens with, or uses, any dangerous weapon, on school property, on a school vehicle or at a school related function, will be dealt with by the administrative directive from the Superintendent of Schools to the principals.

Areas of Responsibility

1. Board of Education

The Board of Education holds the certified personnel responsible for the proper conduct and control of students while legally under the supervision and jurisdiction of the school.

Students

Conduct

2. Principal

The principal may implement necessary procedures and rules and regulations to render effective the policies of the Board of Education relating to standards of student behavior. The principal may involve representatives of all areas of school personnel, students, parents and citizens of the community.

3. Teachers

Teachers shall be responsible for the instruction of students in rules and regulations of proper conduct, as well as be responsible for proper and adequate control of students. The responsibility and authority of any teacher extends to all students of the school district under the assigned supervision of the teacher and to other students so situated with respect to the teacher as to be subject to the teacher's control.

4. Parents

Parents shall be expected to cooperate with school authorities regarding the behavior of their children. Parents shall be held responsible for the willful misbehavior of their children.

Notification of Behavior Code

The Board of Education shall, at the beginning of each school year, notify the parent or guardian of minor students registered in the district of the rules of the district pertaining to student discipline.

The principal of each school shall take steps to insure that all rules pertaining to the discipline of students are communicated to students at the beginning of each school year, and to transfer students at the time of their enrollment in the school.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline/Punishment)

Policy adopted: August 14, 1995

NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Haven, Connecticut