• Alcohol and other drugs – a short-term suspension of up to five
days and a recommendation for a Superintendent’s Hearing to
consider long-term suspension. Consequences for students found
guilty will be firm. Offenses related to illicit substances include
use, including inappropriate involvement with prescription or
over-the-counter drugs, possession, sale or distribution and
possession of drug paraphernalia.

• Weapons possession (or facsimiles of weapons) – students who
possess a facsimile of a weapon, or who possess a weapon they
do not intend to use, may be suspended for up to five days. The
principal may request a Superintendent’s Hearing to consider
longer term suspension. Students who possess a weapon they
do intend to use will be suspended for five days and a
Superintendent’s Hearing to consider long-term suspension will
be scheduled. In keeping with the Gun-Free Schools Act, students
who possess a “firearm” (as defined by Board policy 7360) will
face a Superintendent’s Hearing and a suspension of no less than
one year. The superintendent has the authority to modify such a
suspension on a case-by-case basis.

Reporting Violations, Discipline, Police Notification,
Parent/Guardian Notification

Students are expected to report violations of the Code to school
officials, who will promptly inform building administration, which
will investigate and take appropriate disciplinary action. In situations
of real or potential danger, such notification will be without delay, and
administrators will invoke whatever actions or emergency plans
may be necessary to protect the safety of all persons. Administration
will notify parents/guardians of students whose behavior poses a
danger. Parents/guardians will receive written notice of disciplinary
actions. Administration will notify police of situations which
constitute a crime.

Referrals to Outside Agencies

In conjunction with the police and upon authorization from the
superintendent, building principals may file court complaints or
juvenile delinquency petitions in response to criminal behavior on
the part of a student. In collaboration with building Problem Solving
teams, building principals may file a human services referral. In such
cases, parents/guardians will be consulted and their
collaboration encouraged.

Professional Learning

A focus on positive behavioral intervention supports, social-emotional
learning, the New York State Culturally Responsive and Sustaining
Framework, and bias training will remain in the forefront and will
work to proactively create a positive, healthy, and safe school
environment that is conducive to learning. The district will establish
and maintain in-service programs for all district staff members to
ensure effective implementation of the terms of the Code.
Welcome to your Code of Conduct. This document is a critical tool in ensuring all stakeholders are heard, engaged, and supported in their roles as members of our learning community. As a district, we commit to partnering with our students, educators, staff, parents, guardians, caregivers, and other members of our community. Through this collective work, we promote a positive school climate and a healthy culture with an emphasis on the wellness of all. We work to foster a supportive solution-oriented environment. This includes efforts to expand and integrate social-emotional learning, restorative practices, and trauma, illness, and grief response plans. Additionally, we aim to provide education on pro-social behaviors and positive behavioral intervention systems. As a school district, we know the importance of collaborating with our stakeholders to maximize this work. Thank you for your respective acknowledgment of, and commitment to, bringing this document to life.

**Purpose and Applicability**

In compliance with the New York State Project SAVE legislation, the purpose of the Code is to assure the orderly functioning of our schools, the safety of all persons involved with our schools, and the security of school property. The Code governs the conduct of all persons, including students, on school grounds and at school functions. The Code describes appropriate conduct, prohibited conduct, responses to violations, and other related issues. It seeks to establish and maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect, self-restraint, civility, and trust.

**General: All Persons**

**Dress**

Dress must comply with requirements for health and safety, and must not interfere with the educational process or impinge on the rights of others. Administrators are authorized to assure the requirements are met. The Board of Education specifically discourages dress which celebrates the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances. The Board does not condone dress that promotes the use of violence or threatens the rights and/or health and safety of all individuals.

**Language**

Language that constitutes profanity, obscenity, threat, hazing, discrimination, harassment, or that interferes with the educational process is prohibited in public transactions, except as a topic of transaction to reflect civility and mutual respect.

**Appropriate Conduct**

Appropriate conduct is that which respects, protects, and enhances the district’s educational mission and procedures, the authority and dignity of school personnel, and the rights of all persons associated with the district to a safe, secure, and productive environment.

**Prohibited Conduct**

The following behaviors are prohibited in school buildings, on school grounds, or at any school-sponsored event. (This includes the BOCES campuses and any school transportation vehicles.) Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Willfully causing personal injury, physical restraint, or property damage, including bullying, electronic aggression and hazing behaviors
- Disruption of school programs
- Trespassing
- Demonstrations and picketing
- Possession of a weapon or ammunition or reasonable facsimile of a weapon
- Use or possession of prohibited substances. Prohibited substances refer to the use of all substances including, but not limited to, alcohol (in any form) and other substances, tobacco (smoke or smokeless), electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, mood altering substances, nicotine, unauthorized prescription drugs and any substance referred to as “designer drugs.” Paraphernalia related to possession, purchase, sale or use of any of the aforementioned substances is prohibited upon any premises to which the rules apply.

**Penalties**

- Student violators: range disciplinary action in conjunction with restorative practices
- Visitors or trespassers: ejection from school property and other consequences

**Guidelines/Enforcement**

Enforcement is not intended to curtail the rights of individuals to express themselves in a legitimate manner. Where violations of the Code occur, the superintendent or their designee will notify the offender that the behavior must cease prior to taking action to eject or impose disciplinary consequences. Police may be summoned as a situation warrants.

In accordance with the Patriot Act and the Code of Conduct, the Board of Education has appointed a DASA coordinator in each school who is trained in human relations situations with respect to the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexuality, gender identity, gender expression, and sex. The coordinators will play an active role in prevention, intervention and follow-up to incidents of harassment or discrimination. Contact information for DASA coordinators is listed on the district website and in the Code of Conduct booklet and the Back to School newsletter, The Quote.

**Students**

**Purpose**

West Irondequoit students behave in ways that respect the rights of others and the educational mission of the schools. The Code – and the timely consequences for infractions – is intended to protect those rights and that mission from the few students whose behavior may require intervention and change.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities**

As specified in Board policy 7310 and the Code, students have the right to attend school and participate in co-curricular programs, and to a safe, healthy, orderly and respectful school environment, subject to governing laws and policies. Students have the responsibility to attend school faithfully and to refrain from disruptive, dangerous, or disrespectful conduct.

In accordance with this right, the responsible use of electronic devices, cell phones and social media before, during and after the school day is critical to promoting healthy decision making and a positive school climate. Inappropriate electronic device usage, either on or off school grounds, that includes but is not limited to harassment, bullying, threatening or intimidation of any kind or that creates a disruption to the normal business of the school day will result in school-based consequences that may include in-school or out-of-school suspension.

**Prohibited Behaviors**

Behaviors that threaten or endanger others, or which disrupt the educational program or climate are prohibited. Students are expected to comply with all reasonable requests and directives of teachers, staff, and administrators. Failure to do so constitutes insubordination.

The Code lists Board policies that define prohibited behaviors and their consequences in further detail. Building handbooks also provide further information.

**Range of Responses**

Responses to prohibited behaviors in conjunction with restorative interventions, may include warnings, parent/guardian notification, and conferences, as well as any of the following, depending on the seriousness of the infraction:

- Life Space Interview
- Time away
- Parent/Guardian interview
- Detention
- Suspension from transportation
- •feasibility of the suspension
- •Repetitive substantial disruption – up to five days. If warranted, the principal may call for a Superintendent’s Hearing to consider long-term suspension.
- •Violence – up to five days. If warranted, the principal may call for a Superintendent’s Hearing to consider long-term suspension.

**Minimum Suspension Periods**

Minimum suspension periods, along with other consequences, apply as indicated for the following offenses:

- • Teacher Detention – assigned by a teacher
- • Detention – assigned by an administrator
- • Bus restrictions – for misbehavior on buses; may include suspension from transportation
- • Suspension from athletic/extracurricular participation – in keeping with Co-curricular Participation Regulations established for the activity
- • Removal from the classroom (assigned by the teacher) – includes student and parent/guardian rights to a timely conference with the teacher and principal
- • Short-term in-school or out-of-school suspension (assigned by the principal) – includes student and parent/guardian rights to a formal hearing prior to a decision by the superintendent
- • Long-term suspension beyond five days (assigned by the superintendent) – includes student and parent/guardian rights to a formal hearing prior to a decision by the superintendent

**Removal/Suspension Procedures for Students with Disabilities**

Discipline of students with disabilities will be in accordance with the terms of the Code of Conduct, except where those terms conflict with protections such students have under applicable state and federal laws. The Committee on Special Education may be involved to determine the relationship between a student’s behavior and his/her disability, and to review the appropriateness of the student’s placement.

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