

STUDENT DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

The following is a summary of the school unit’s expectations for student behavior. In many cases, the Board has adopted policies that address these expectations in greater detail. Students, parents/guardians, and others should refer to the policies and student handbook for more information about the expectations and consequences. In case of an inconsistency between the Code of Conduct, Board policies and/or student handbooks, Board policies will prevail.

A. Violence and Threats

Students shall not engage in violent or threatening behavior. Prohibited behavior includes fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats to commit violence against persons or property, or threats, intimidation, or harassment. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Any verified act of physical aggression (hitting, kicking, slapping, and/or assault) shall result in an immediate three day out-of-school suspension for the student (s) who engage in the aggression. School administration will consider mitigating factors, such as self-defense or bullying, in determining suspension of students for physical aggression. Future verified acts of aggression by the same student(s) may result in additional suspensions from school or expulsion. *See District Policies: JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety; EBBC - Bomb Threats*

B. Weapons

Students shall not possess or use weapons of any kind (examples include but are not limited to firearms, explosives, and knives). Students also shall not use any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce, or harass another person (examples include but are not limited to bats, lighters, tools and toy weapons). Firearms violations will result in expulsion in accordance with state and federal statutes; other weapons violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. *See District Policy: JFCJ - Weapons in the Schools; JICIA - Weapons, Violence and School Safety*

C. Hazing

Hazing is prohibited. Maine law defines injurious hazing as “any action or situation, including harassing behavior that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school.” No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in such activities in connection with any school program or activity, including extracurricular, co-curricular and athletic activities. Students who engage in hazing activities are subject to suspension, expulsion and/or other appropriate disciplinary measures. *See District Policy: ACAD – Hazing*

D. Bullying

Bullying is not acceptable conduct in Jonesport and Beals schools and is prohibited. Any student who engages in conduct that constitutes bullying shall be subject to disciplinary consequences up to and

including suspension and expulsion. A student's bullying behavior may also be addressed through other behavioral interventions. *See District Policy: JICK – Bullying*

E. Discrimination and Harassment/Sexual Harassment

Students should not discriminate against other students on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, gender identity, national origin or disability. Nor should students harass one another on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, ancestry, gender identity, or national origin or disability. Sexual harassment is also prohibited. Harassment and discrimination are grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. *See District Policies: JB - Equal Educational Opportunities; Notification Regarding Sexual Harassment of Students by Students; ACAA - Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students*

F. Drug and Alcohol Use

Students shall not distribute, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, drug, or look-alike substance as described in Board policy. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school. *See District Policy: JFCI - Student Drug & Tobacco Use*

G. Tobacco Use

Students shall not smoke, use, possess, sell, or distribute any tobacco or vaping products. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school. *See District Policy: JFCI - Student Drug & Tobacco Use*

H. Conduct on School Buses

Students must comply with all Board policies and school rules while on school buses. Students who violate these policies and rules on a school bus may have their riding privileges suspended or revoked, and may also be subject to additional disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, depending upon the particular violation. *See District Policy: EEACC-R - Student Conduct on Buses*

I. Computer/Internet Use

Students may use school computers, networks, and Internet services only for educational purposes. Students shall comply with all policies and rules governing acceptable use. Unacceptable use may result in suspension or cancellation of computer privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action. *See District Policy: IIBG-A - Student Computer and Internet Use*

J. Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

Students must follow all Board policies and school rules while participating in athletics and cocurricular activities. Students who violate policies and rules may be subject to suspension or

removal from the team/activity as well as additional disciplinary action under applicable Board policies and/or school rules. *See District Policy: IGDJ - Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics*

K. Swearing

Students who have been verified to have spoken profane language at a staff member or student shall be subject to a one day out-of-school suspension. Future verified uses of profanity in the same school year shall be subject to a two-day out-of-school suspension.

L. Misuse of Cellphones

Policy JFCK-R details the numerous rules regarding cellphone use by students while attending school or school sponsored activities. Cellphones are not to be used while in school, except during lunch and recess, unless the teacher requires their use during a classroom assignment. *Please refer to policy JFCK-R for full detailed information.*

M. Removal of Disruptive/Violent/Threatening Students

- I. Students who are disruptive, violent, or threatening death or bodily harm to others may be removed from classrooms, school buses, or other school property when necessary to maintain order and safety. The staff member who orders the student removed should arrange to have the student escorted to the office or other designated location.
- II. If a student does not comply with a staff member's order to leave, the staff member will contact an administrator, or, if not available, another suitable person, who shall respond promptly.
- III. Staff members should not use force or restraint, except only to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm. Staff members are not required to take action that puts them at risk of serious injury.
- IV. The responding administrator will take appropriate action. If the student fails to obey verbal directions, force or restraint may be used only to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm or to quell a disturbance. Whenever practicable, law enforcement should be called to restrain or physically remove the noncompliant student. The administrator may invoke the school unit's crisis response plan if appropriate.

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