

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE

It is essential for schools to maintain a safe and orderly environment that supports student learning and achievement. Effective discipline allows the schools to discharge their primary responsibilities to educate students and promote citizenship and ethical behavior. All students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with School Board 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.

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

- A. Discipline should emphasize positive reinforcement for appropriate behavior, as well as appropriate consequences for misbehavior. The focus should be on providing a school environment where students are engaged in constructive learning and interactions with others. (MTSS model)
- B. Expectations for student behavior should be clear and communicated to school staff, students and parents.
- C. 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. (MTSS Model)
- D. 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. 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 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 building 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 and the Board shall provide for the suspension or other serious disciplinary action against students in accordance with Board policies, administrative procedures and Maine law. (MTSS Model) These said actions shall be as follows:

**Level 1 Behaviors— Initially handled at classroom level**

1. Failure to come to class prepared for work (pencil, text, charged chromebook/laptop, and etc.)
2. Distraction of other students (Excessive talking, taking people's belongings, throwing things, noises, out of seat, physical contact, etc.)
3. Inappropriate and immature behavior/improper conduct. (Inappropriate physical, touch, noise making, PDA's, cheating, etc.)
4. Rudeness, inappropriate language, disrespectful to others, etc.
5. Tardiness

**Recommended Level I Disciplinary Options**

1. Teacher warning
2. Parent/teacher meeting
3. Behavioral management by teacher (30 minute detention with teacher, administrative support will be available to ensure that the detention is served.)
4. Loss of classroom privilege
5. Teacher contact of parent
6. All tardies are reported to the office. Upon receipt of a third unexcused tardy, a 60-minute detention will be required.

**Level 2 Behaviors—Level 2 behaviors are of a more serious nature and are to be reported to the teacher leader and principal on a disciplinary referral form.**

1. Habitual level 1 violations
2. Cell Phone violation
3. Defacing school property
4. Vulgar language (directed at specific persons or repeated after warnings.)
5. Theft (petty, less than \$20)
6. Habitual tardiness
7. Cafeteria infractions/throwing food

**Required Level 2 Disciplinary Action**

1. Parent contact
2. 60-90 minute detention (administrative)
3. Appropriate restitution
4. Loss of extracurricular privilege as outlined in the Student & Athletic Handbooks
5. Conference with counselor possible.

**Level 3 Behaviors - These behaviors must be reported to the teacher leader and principal.**

These behaviors must be reported to the assistant principal and principal through the submission of a disciplinary referral form.

1. Habitual violations of level 2 behaviors
2. Fighting (both offensive and defensive)
3. Abuse of school property
4. Forgery for school-related purposes
5. Causing or provoking a major disturbance anywhere in the school
6. Instigating or provoking others to fight
7. Sexual harassment, other harassment, bullying, intimidation, threatening other students and school staff
8. Vulgarity or abusive language towards any adult
9. Leaving campus without permission
10. Insubordination
11. Tobacco possession or usage
12. Failure to make up assigned detention
13. Food fight
14. Blatant refusal to comply to reasonable request
15. Skipping class
16. During school hours or a school activity. Posting or uploading any pictures, videos or written messages on social media not approved by the school's administration

\*\*\* Note; school will be defined as: any activity that JBHS is being represented on school property or away. This includes but is not limited to: Classrooms, hallways, bath rooms, gym, buses, athletic or extra-curricular activities, field trips, and etc.\*\*\*

**Required Level 3 Disciplinary Action**

1. Parent contact or conference
2. 1-3 day suspension
3. Refer to counselor
4. Loss of extracurricular privilege as outlined in the Student & Athletic Handbooks
5. Possible legal action
6. Refer to Affirmative Action Coordinator

7. Restitution

**Level 4 Behaviors— These behaviors must be reported to the teacher leader and principal.**

1. Habitual level 3 violations
2. Burglary, theft, unlawful possession of school property
3. Extortion
4. Gambling
5. Robbery
6. Assault on a student
7. Physical intimidation
8. Possession, use, or being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or other illicit substances.
9. Illicit Drug (paraphernalia or material)
10. Indecent exposure

**Required Level 4 Disciplinary Action**

1. Parent contact
2. Police notification
3. 5-10 day suspension (Parent must meet with administrators and counselors before student is readmitted to school.)
4. Loss of extracurricular privilege as outlined in the Student & Athletic Handbooks
5. Refer to counselor
6. Possible recommendation to the school committee for expulsion

**Level 5 Behaviors— Must be reported to the teacher leader and principal.**

1. Habitual level 4 violations
2. Sale or distribution of alcohol, marijuana, or other prohibited substances, paraphernalia or material
3. Possession of a weapon/other than firearm
4. Physical or verbal assault on district personnel
5. Instigating or participating in gang/mob type school disturbance
6. Engaging in a sexual act on school property

**Required Level 5 Disciplinary Action**

1. 5-10 day suspension
2. School administrators will consider referral to school committee for expulsion
3. Police notification of criminal activity leading to arrest
4. Loss of extracurricular privilege as outlined in the Student & Athletic Handbooks
5. Students must participate in some form of counseling program to address the student's behavioral problems before being readmitted to school. School guidance counselor must approve the program.

**Level 6 Behaviors These behaviors must be reported to the teacher leader and principal.**

1. Possession or use of deadly weapon/firearm
2. Sexual assault
3. Rape
4. Any other violent crime

**Required Level 6 Disciplinary Action**

1. Suspension from school with recommendation for expulsion
2. Police notification of criminal activity leading to arrest
3. Barred from presence on campus
4. Loss of extracurricular privilege as outlined in the Student & Athletic Handbooks

\*\*\* Anything not stated in this would be under the discretion of the administration as to what level an incident or behavior shall fall under\*\*\*

Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and 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 Reference: 17-A MRSA § 106

20-A MRSA § 4009

Ch. 125.23 (B)(5)(1) (Maine Dept. of Ed. Rule)

Cross Reference: AC – Non Discrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

ACAA – Student Harassment and Sexual Harassment

EBCA – Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

JIC – Student Code of Conduct

JICIA Weapons, Violence and School Safety

JKAA – Timeout Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint

JKB – Student Detention

JKD – Suspension of Students

JKE – Expulsion of Students

JKF – Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

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