

FULTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
CODE OF CONDUCT

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Education (here and after, Board) is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and district personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teacher, other district personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The district has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to see to it that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly. To this end, the Board adopts this Code of Conduct (here and after, code).

Unless otherwise indicated, this code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this code, the following definitions apply.

Disruptive student means any student under the age of 21 who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

Parent means parent, guardian or person in parental relationship to a student.

School Property means in or within any building structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school, or in or on a school bus or district owned vehicle.

School function means any school-sponsored event or activity.

Violent student means a student under the age of 21 who:

1. Commits an act of violence upon a school employee, or attempts to do so.
2. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at the school function, or attempts to do so.
3. Possesses, while on school property or at a school function, a weapon.
4. Displays, while on school property or at a school function, what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatens, while on school property or at a school function, to use a weapon or commits a violent act.
6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.

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7. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys school district property.

Disruptive Person is a person on school property or attending a school sponsored function who behaves in a disruptive, threatening or violent manner. The disruptive individual is one who disrupts the activity, threatens, harasses or injures others in attendance or damages school property.

Weapon means a firearm as defined in 18 USC 921 for purposes of the Gun-Free Schools Act. It also means any other gun, BB gun, paintball gun, pellet gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutter, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Ninja star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, look alike fake weapon, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause physical injury or death when used to cause physical injury or death or, when brandished as a weapon.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Student Rights

The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly and civil school environment, all district students have the right to:

1. Take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender or disability.
2. Present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.
3. Access school rules and expectations and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those expectations from school personnel.

B. Student Responsibilities

All district students have the responsibility to:

1. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.
2. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules, expectations, and regulations dealing with student conduct.
3. Attend school everyday unless they are legally excused and be in class, on time, and prepared to learn.
4. Work to the best of their ability in all academic and extracurricular pursuits and strive toward their highest level of achievement possible.
5. Respond to direction given by teachers, administrators and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
6. Work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
7. Ask questions when they do not understand.
8. Seek help in solving problems that might otherwise lead to an infraction of the Code

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9. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
10. Accept responsibility for their actions.
11. Conduct themselves as representatives of the district when participating in or attending school-sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor and sportsmanship.

DRESS CODE

The intent of the dress code is to foster an environment that is safe and conducive to teaching and student learning. It is also intended to provide guidance to help develop appropriate habits to prepare students for their role in the work place and society.

All students, district personnel, student teachers/interns, volunteers and contract personnel are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school, school functions and job responsibilities. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. All district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

A. STUDENT DRESS CODE

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate for the function and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
2. Recognize that extremely brief garments, pajamas and see through garments are not appropriate. Extremely brief garments are defined as including, but not limited to tube tops, tank tops, shirts that cannot be tucked in or reveal midriff, short shorts, short skirts, short dresses, bathing suits, halter tops, spaghetti straps and revealing necklines (front and/or back).
3. Ensure that underwear is completely covered with and not visible through outer clothing.
4. Students are prohibited from wearing hats, bandanas and other head coverings inside a school facility during the school day unless for valid religious reasons, specifically permitted school function and/or a medical reason as confirmed in writing by a physician.
5. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, pornographic, libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

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7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

The building principal may declare other rules for special days, for example hat day.

Each building principal or his or her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, according to the district's progressive discipline policy

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their behavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the student's ability to grow in self-discipline.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear.¹ The rules and expectations of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for the conduct.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

- A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly or disruptive. Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:
 1. Running in hallways.

¹ 1 "This does not rule out the possibility of discipline for off-campus conduct violative of this code when such conduct endangers the health or safety of pupils within the educational system or adversely affects the educative process. The District reserves the right to discipline in appropriate cases for such off-campus conduct."

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2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building. Students are only permitted in the school that they attend after school hours with the permission of the administrator or to participate in a school sponsored activity
7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of laser pointers, cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, cameras, computers, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the district ' s acceptable use or Internet use policy.

B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
2. Missing, leaving or being late for school or class without permission.
3. Skipping detention.

C. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, pinching, pushing, throwing projectiles, biting, spitting and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee, as well as another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
2. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
3. Displaying or portraying to have what appears to be a weapon.
4. Threatening to use any weapon.
5. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
6. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.

D. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.

Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Making a false statement to school personnel, including forgery.

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2. Stealing the property of the school district, other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
4. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
5. Harassment, which includes a sufficiently severe action or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as bullying, ridiculing, demeaning or threatening.
6. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
7. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
8. Selling, distributing, using or possessing obscene material.
9. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
10. Possession or use of any tobacco products as well as paraphernalia.
11. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. Illegal substances include but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, barbiturates, ecstasy, heroin, steroids, drug look-alikes, unauthorized prescription drugs, over the counter drugs and any substances commonly referred to as designer drugs.
12. Unauthorized possession of, inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
13. Gambling.
14. Indecent exposure: defined as exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
15. Initiating a report warning of fire, bomb threat or other emergency catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.

E. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus/district owned vehicles. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses/vehicles to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus/district vehicles in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving, fighting and/or moving about the bus while it is in motion will not be tolerated.

F. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

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1. Plagiarism.
2. Cheating.
3. Copying.
4. Altering records.
5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

DISCIPLINARY PENALTIES, PROCEDURES AND REFERRALS

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the student's ability to grow in self-discipline.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The student's age/grade.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's first violation, depending upon the severity of the offense, will usually merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations. However, the district may impose any level of discipline, even for a first violation, that is proportionate to the misconduct at issue.

If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student shall be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of this code of conduct for disciplining students with a disability or presumed to have a disability. .

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A. Consequences/Penalties

Students who are found to have violated the district's code of conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

1. Verbal warning - any member of the district staff and/or contracted staff
2. Written warning - bus drivers, hall and lunch monitors, coaches, school counselors, teachers, assistant principals/designees, principals, Superintendent
3. Written notification to parent - bus driver, hall and lunch monitors, coaches, school counselors, teachers, assistant principal/designee, principals, Superintendent/designee
4. Detention - teachers, assistant principals/designees, principals, Superintendent/designee
5. Suspension from transportation - director of transportation, assistant principals/designees principals, Superintendent/designee.
6. Suspension from athletic participation - coaches, athletic director, assistant principals/designees, principals, Superintendent/designee
7. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities - activity director, assistant principal/designee, principals, Superintendent
8. Suspension of other privileges - assistant principals/designees, principals, Superintendent/designee
9. In-school suspension - assistant principals/designees, principals, Superintendent/designee
10. Disciplinary removal from classroom by teacher - teachers, assistant principals/designees, principals
11. Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school - principals, Superintendent/designee, Board of Education
12. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school - Superintendent, Board of Education
13. Permanent suspension from school - Superintendent, Board of Education

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

The board encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the district's schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The building principal or his or her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules and expectations apply to visitors to the schools:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor. Visitors may be asked to provide picture identification.
2. All visitors to the school shall be required to sign the visitors' register and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times

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- while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge before leaving the building.
3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings, may be required to register.
 4. Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the principal and classroom teacher(s) to keep classroom disruptions to a minimum.
 5. Teachers are not expected to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
 6. Any unauthorized persons on school property will be reported to the principal or his/her designee. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation warrants.
 7. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules and expectations for public conduct on school property contained in this Code of Conduct.

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The district is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. For purposes of this section of the code, public shall mean all persons when on school property or attending a school function including students, teachers and district personnel.

The restrictions on public conduct on school property and at school functions contained in this code are not intended to limit freedom of speech or peaceful assembly. The district recognizes that free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the objectives of the district. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. In addition, all persons on school property or attending a school function are expected to be properly attired for the purpose they are on school property.

A. Prohibited Conduct

No person, either alone or with others, shall:

1. Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so.
2. Intentionally damage or destroy school district property or the personal property of a teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti and arson.
3. Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs or other school activities.
4. Distribute, display or wear materials on school grounds or a school functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the school program.

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5. Intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
6. Enter any portion of the school premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed.
7. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which this code applies.
8. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles.
9. Consume, sell, distribute or use any tobacco product or tobacco paraphernalia.
10. Possess, consume, sell, distribute or exchange alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or be under the influence of either on school property or at a school function.
11. Possess or use weapons in or on school property or at a school function, except in the case of law enforcement officers or except as specifically authorized by the school district.
12. Loiter on or about school property, or be on school property without a legitimate purpose.
13. Gamble on school property or at school functions
14. Refuse to comply with any reasonable order of identifiable school district officials performing their duties.
15. Willingly incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this code
16. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or board policy while on school property or while at a school function.