

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Ethical and responsible student behavior is an essential part of the educational mission of our schools. To that end, the RSU #23 School Department School Board has developed the following policy framework to foster an environment that is safe physically, socially, emotionally, spiritually, and academically, and that is orderly and respectful.

Our school community is dedicated to such values of *honesty, respect, responsibility, compassion, citizenship* and *fairness*. Individuals who exhibit these values are motivated to behave in ways, which contribute to a positive, diverse, safe and caring learning environment. The Board is committed to ethical and responsible behavior, and will provide leadership in the face of this challenge.

Each of the schools is expected to establish a Code of Conduct, a set of expectations for ethical and responsible behavior that is aligned with the values identified in this policy. The schools will teach what each standard means, including clear examples of the expectations, and establish a building-level, developmentally appropriate system to meet the goals of this policy.

The Code of Conduct shall include an emphasis on positive reinforcement for behaviors, which meet or exceed our expectations. Our expectations for student behavior, furthermore, should be clearly communicated to school staff, students, and parents through our written Code of Conduct, Student Handbooks, and direct communication with parents.

The Code of Conduct applies to students who are on school property, who are in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the schools. Administrators and staff must take such actions as necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff when student behaviors are potentially aggressive, destructive, or violent. In such cases, staff will work with law enforcement officials or other appropriate agencies to both protect students and staff, and to seek effective and coordinated intervention.

The Board believes that each member of the school community must take responsibility for his or her own behavior. The Board also recognizes the need to define unacceptable student conduct, identify the consequences for unacceptable conduct, and ensure that discipline is administered fairly, promptly, and in a manner which is both developmentally appropriate and logical. Parents should be actively included in both the prevention and the resolution of behavioral problems

at school. Consequences should be designed so they incorporate RSU 23's educational philosophy, as well as the essential core values defined by our communities and the State of Maine. The district approach to ethical and responsible student behavior subscribes to the Positive Behavior Intervention system framework and as such includes a tiered system of teaching and intervention. The RSU #23 School Department administration will ensure that the building level Codes of Conduct are developed and administered in a way that is consistent across the district.

Adopted: 1/8/14