

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

Public Conduct on School Property

The Board of Education recognizes that the primary purpose of the school district is to provide a superior atmosphere for learning and education. Any action by an individual or group aimed at disrupting, interfering with, or delaying the education process is hereby declared to be in violation of Board policy. The Board shall approve rules and regulations to effect this policy as required by Education Law Section 2801.

The Board also recognizes its responsibility to protect school property and declares its intent to take any and all legal action to prevent its damage or destruction. The Board will also seek restitution from, and prosecution of, any person or persons who willfully damage school property.

It is not the intent of this policy to limit freedom of speech or peaceful assembly. The purpose of the rules and regulations is to prevent abuse of the rights of others and to maintain public order, not to prevent or restrain controversy or dissent.

Presentation: 11/1/89

First
Vote: 11/15/89

Second
Vote: 12/6/89

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Application

These rules shall govern the conduct of students, administration, faculty and other staff, invitees, and all other persons, regardless of whether their presence has been authorized on school district property or upon any other property under the control of this school district used for teaching, research, administrative service, or cultural, recreational, athletic and other programs and activities.

Prohibited Conduct:

No person, either singly or in concert with others, shall:

1. Willfully cause or threaten to cause physical injury to any other person.
2. Physically restrain or detain any other person, nor remove such person from any place where he or she is authorized to remain.
3. Enter upon or remain in any building or facility for any purpose other than its authorized uses or in such manner as to obstruct its authorized use by others.
4. Remain in any building or facility after it is closed, absent authorization.
5. Refuse to leave any building or facility after being required to do so by an authorized person.
6. Obstruct the free movement of persons or vehicles in any authorized place, building, or facility.
7. Deliberately disrupt or prevent the peaceful and orderly conduct of classes, lectures, and meetings (including meetings of the Board or of any committee or advisory board appointed by or authorized by the Board) or deliberately interfere with the freedom of any person to express his or her views, including invited speakers.
8. Willfully cause damage to or theft of property of the district or of a member of the district's staff, students, or visitors on district owned or controlled premises.
9. Knowingly have in his or her possession upon any premises to which these rules apply, any firearm, weapon, or any dangerous instrument, appliance, or substance, whether or not possession of which is prohibited by law, without the written authorization of the Superintendent.
10. Bring onto school premises or have in his or her possession on school premises any alcoholic beverage, illegal drugs, or narcotics.

11. Loiter on school premises. Under the state law, a person is guilty of loitering when he or she loiters or remains in or about a school building or grounds, not having any reason or relationship involving custody of, or responsibility for, a pupil or any other specific, legitimate reason for being there and not having written permission from anyone authorized to grant the same.
12. Smoke (including electronic cigarettes) on school property.
13. Misbehave on school buses, whether such buses are owned or leased by the district or under contract to the district.
14. Willfully interfere with the lawful and authorized activities of others.
15. Make or cause to be made bomb threats or false alarms.
16. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited in these rules and regulations with specific intent to procure them to do so.
17. Fail to comply with directives of school district officials acting in the performance of their duties.

Accessibility of Premises

No person, except authorized personnel, will be permitted to enter the boiler rooms, electrical or telephone control, switching areas, or any other areas specifically posted as being restricted against entry.

No visitor will enter a school building without first reporting to the principal's office for permission to conduct whatever business he or she has come for, and will not remain in such school building or on school premises unless the school principal or his/her designee has granted permission.

No school buildings or grounds may be used for any purpose except such as are under the direct supervision and control of the school authorities, or in accordance with the policy on the use of school facilities. A copy of such policy, rules, and regulations shall be given to any organization to whom permission to use school premises is given.

Vehicular traffic will not be driven over such roads or other school property which are clearly marked as being restricted against vehicular traffic.

Enforcement

The superintendent will be responsible for enforcing these rules and regulations. The procedure for enforcement will depend on the circumstances accompanying the infraction. Every effort will be made to handle all situations with school district staff. However, where necessary, recourse shall be made to police authorities and to the courts.

Penalties for violators of the provisions:

1. A licensee shall lose authorization to remain upon the school premises and shall be directed to leave the premises. In the event of failure or refusal to do so, he or she will be subject to ejection.
2. A trespasser or visitor, without specific license or invitation, shall be subject to ejection.
3. A student shall be subject to disciplinary action, as the facts of the case may warrant, including suspension, probation, loss of privileges, reprimand, or warning. Any violations by students occurring on school buses may result in suspension or permanent loss of school bus privileges.
4. A faculty member, having tenure and guilty of misconduct, shall be subject to the procedures and penalties prescribed by law, or such lesser disciplinary action as the facts may warrant, including censure.
5. A staff member in the classified service of the civil service, and guilty of misconduct, shall be subject to the penalties prescribed by law.
6. A staff member, other than described above, shall be subject to dismissal, suspension without pay, or censure.