

Kent City School District

Bylaws & Policies

5500 - STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The Board of Education has adopted the following Student Conduct Code. The Code includes the types of misconduct that will subject a student to disciplinary action. The Board has also adopted the list of behaviors and the terms contained in the list.

The Kent City School District will attempt to provide a safe and orderly learning environment for all students. Certain student actions may not be compatible with the words "safe" and "orderly". Discipline is within the sound discretion of the school's staff and administration. Due process ensures that disciplinary action is imposed only after review of the facts and/or special circumstances of the situation.

The following outline provides a list of major areas that could result in disciplinary action. An explanation of each behavior and possible consequences follows the list. The absence of a behavior or any specific action from the list does not mean that such conduct does not violate the discipline code or cannot be punished.

- A. The exercise of self-control, self-discipline, and self-direction are essential to positive school behavior and success in the future. The school has an obligation to observe and respect the rights of individual students and the student body as a whole. As with any organization, cooperation and the observation of the rights of others are essential if the goals of the organization are to be accomplished. To this end, each student must be responsible for his/her own behavior and must respect the rights of others.

- B. The following types of offenses by students of the Kent City School District may lead to disciplinary action which may include detention, social suspension, Saturday School assignment, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or expulsion:
 - 1. Truancy

Unexcused absence from school.

 - 2. Unassigned EMIS Code at this time

 - 3. Fighting/Violence
 - a. Contributing to, encouraging, or engaging in disruptive behavior including, but not limited to, fighting.

- b. Intentionally, negligently, recklessly, or carelessly causing physical injury or behaving in such a way that could threaten to cause physical injury to another.

4. Vandalism/Arson (School or Personal Property)

- a. Intentional, negligent, or careless defacing, damaging, or desecration of private or public property on school premises or at any school activity on or off school grounds.
- b. Setting or use of any unauthorized fire or acting in such a manner that might cause a fire.

5. Theft (School or Personal Property)

Theft of property.

6. Use/Possession/Sale of a Firearm

Use, possession, or sale and/or threatened use of a firearm or any device that could propel a projectile or object that could cause harm.

7. Use/Possession/Sale of a Dangerous Weapon Other Than a Firearm or Explosive or Incendiary or Poison

Use, possession, or sale and/or threatened use of any object or a dangerous weapon other than a gun or explosive that can reasonably be considered a dangerous instrument.

8. Use/Possession/Sale of any Explosive, Incendiary, or Poison Gas

Use, possession, or sale and/or threatened use of any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

9. Use/Possession/Sale of Tobacco

Use, possession, or sale of tobacco and/or look-alike products, including smoking of any substance, possessing or using smoking materials such as rolling paper, lighters and matches.

10. Use/Possession/Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

Using, possessing, purchasing, selling, intending to buy or sell, or transmitting alcohol or simulated alcohol; having the odor of alcoholic beverages upon his/her breath or clothing; or possessing alcohol, on school property or on school vehicles, during a school day or at a school-sponsored activity regardless of the time of day is a violation. Students are also prohibited from school grounds, on school vehicles, or from attendance at any school-sponsored event after the use of alcohol.

11. Use/Possession/Sale of Other Drugs Other Than Tobacco or Alcohol

Using, possessing, purchasing, selling, intending to buy or sell, or transmitting drugs or simulated drugs; having the odor of drugs upon his/her breath or clothing; or possessing drug paraphernalia, on school property or on school vehicles, during a school day or at a school-sponsored activity regardless of the time of day is a violation. Students are also prohibited from school grounds, on school vehicles, or from attendance at any school-sponsored event after the use of drugs.

12. Unassigned EMIS code at this time.

13. Unassigned EMIS code at this time.

14. False Alarms/Bomb Threats

Wrongfully discharging or attempting to discharge an alarm system; falsely reporting an emergency, including a bomb threat.

15. Unassigned EMIS code at this time.

16. Unassigned EMIS code at this time.

17. Unassigned EMIS code at this time.

18. Behavioral Problems/Disruption of School

- a. Disrupting school or causing or attempting to cause the disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process,

or function of the school, including any school-sponsored activity, by violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, passive resistance, or other disorderly conduct, or urging other students to disrupt or to obstruct the process or function of school by the use of same.

- b. Intentional disobedience, disrespect, issuing threats.
- c. Intentionally giving incorrect information to faculty, staff, or other employees of the District.
- d. Gambling.
- e. Cheating.
- f. Plagiarism.
- g. Tardiness.
- h. Throwing foods, liquids, or any article in the cafeteria.
- i. The unauthorized throwing of any object, including snowballs.
- j. Commission of an immoral act.
- k. Loitering, littering, or causing a disturbance on public or private property during the school day or at a school activity.
- l. Violations of the school dress code.
- m. Willful violation of the student responsibility as may be established by the Kent Board of Education.
- n. Using the name or identity of another person (verbally or in writing); falsifying times, dates, grades, addresses, or other data on correspondence directed to school personnel.
- o. Inappropriate public display of affection.

- p. Display or distribution of unauthorized material in school, on school property, or at school-related activities.
- q. Attempting to gain entrance for self or others to school activities without paying admission.
- r. Entering another's desk or locker or using another's property without authorized permission.
- s. Trespassing on private property adjoining, adjacent to, or within the line of sight of school property before, during, or after school.
- t. Unauthorized use of disruptive devices including, but not limited to, pagers, beepers, and other electronic or manual devices.
- u. Inappropriate use of technology.

Students are not permitted to video, photograph, or record other students, staff, or school events in a way that could be detrimental or embarrassing to the school or the people being filmed or recorded. Examples of this could include but not be limited to video taping a fight, someone changing in the locker room, a student being bullied, etc.

There is no expectation of privacy with any electronic equipment, including privately owned products, provided there is reasonable suspicion that it contains information concerning violations of Student Conduct Code.

- v. Lack of serious educational intent (e.g., failure to submit homework assignments, sleeping in class, etc.).
- w. Repeated violation or repeated misbehavior.
- x. Failure to serve consequence.

19. Harassment/Intimidation

Any act that includes:

- a. Use of racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual slurs.
- b. Hazing, teasing, bullying, or acting to intimidate.
- c. Sexual and other forms of harassment (includes writing, drawing, gestures, words, taking, reproducing, possessing, sharing, disseminating or saving images of a sexual, sensitive or derogatory nature on a mobile or stationary electronic device, touching, and other forms of harassment).

O.R.C. 3313.666 defines "harassment, intimidation, or bullying" as "any intentional written, verbal, or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both: (1) Causes mental or physical harm to the other student; (2) Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student." Such behavior is prohibited on school property or at school events.

Cyber-bullying, defined as the above prohibited behavior perpetrated with computers, cellular phones, Internet websites, and/or any other electronic device, also is prohibited. In addition, cyber-bullying is not limited to where the bullying originates but also includes where it is communicated on school property or at school events.

20. Use/Possession/Sale of Firearm Look-A-Likes

Use/Possession/Sale or threatened use of firearm look-a-likes.

21. Unwelcome Sexual Contact

Unwelcome sexual contact.

22. Serious Bodily Injury to Oneself or Others

An incident that results in serious bodily injury to oneself or others. Serious Bodily Injury is defined as "A bodily injury that involves substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or faculty" (18 U.S.C. Section 1365(3)(h)).

23. Insubordination

Insubordination or failure to respond and/or otherwise ignoring a reasonable request from faculty, staff, or other employees of the District.

24. Harmful Behavior

Acting to cause mental, emotional, or physical harm to another person, including insensitive or inflammatory language.

25. Leaving School Without Permission

Leaving school or assigned educational location prior to specified dismissal time without official permission and/or transporting on or off school premises other students who have no permission to leave school.

26. Physical/Verbal Assault Against a Student

Assaulting another student by words, hands, feet, fist, or by use of an object which could cause physical and/or emotional harm to another person.

27. Physical/Verbal Assault Against a School Employee

Assaulting an employee by words, hands, feet, fist, or by use of an object which could cause physical and/or emotional harm to the employee.

28. Inducing Panic

Creating a situation which could make others believe an emergency is in progress when in fact there may or may not be an emergency.

29. Vulgar Language

Use of offensive or vulgar language or gestures.

30. Violation of Statutes

Violation of Federal, State, or local statutes or ordinances regardless of the existence of a criminal charge and/or conviction.

Violations of prohibitions identified in Rule #9, #10, and #11 above (viz., tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and other drugs other than tobacco or alcohol) shall be evaluated on the basis of the infraction date with a rolling 24-month period previous to the infraction.

No form of violence, disruptive or inappropriate behavior, nor excessive truancy (which is more than ten (10) days of unexcused absence), will be tolerated.

The foregoing acts of misconduct are prohibited on all school property, going to and from school by foot or vehicle, and at all school-sponsored functions and activities on and off campus.

In the event a student is cited for multiple offenses, the commission of any one (1) of the foregoing offenses shall be sufficient to result in any of the possible disciplinary actions.

In the event of negligent or willful property damage, reimbursement of the cost of replacement thereof shall be borne by the student and/or his/her parents or guardian.

- C. In addition to the offenses listed above, each building principal may develop an additional list of offenses appropriate to that building. Such additional list of offenses shall be made known to the students in such ways as may be appropriate to the age and maturity of the students involved.

In addition, the Board, on August 26, 1982, reviewed and reaffirmed the following policies which have been in effect for a number of years:

Maintenance of Orderly Conduct

The Board expects that students will conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, acting with due regard for the supervisory authority vested by the Board in all District employees, for the educational purpose underlying all school activities, for the widely shared use of school property, and for the rights and welfare of other students.

The Board expects that all employees of the District will share

responsibility for supervising the behavior of students and for seeing that they meet the standards of conduct which have been or may hereafter be established by the Board or its agents.

In each instance in which an employee acts to help a student conduct himself/herself properly, emphasis is to be placed upon the development of the student's ability to discipline himself/herself.

Student/Teacher Relationships

Students are expected at all times to show evidence of respect for their teachers.

Teachers are expected to show evidence of respect for their students and to demand respect for themselves.

Student Dress

A student's dress and appearance become of concern to school authorities if and when that dress and appearance tend to disrupt the work of a class. Therefore, ill-fitting or inappropriate dress or unusual appearance cannot be tolerated at school. If, in the opinion of the principal, a student's dress and appearance detract from the effectiveness of work in a class or in other ways are an undesirable influence upon other students, the principal will direct the offending student to dress in a proper manner and to present an appearance not offending to others.

No student may wear items which are obscene or drug/alcohol related, or demonstrate or suggest racial, ethnic, sexual or religious disrespect.

Safety

Students are to observe all safety practices and procedures set forth by administrators and teachers.

Board Support

The Board supports teachers and administrators in maintaining of proper behavior among students.

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