

BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT UNIFORM CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Bellevue Independent Schools
219 Center Street, Bellevue, KY 41073
Wayne Starnes, Superintendent
859-261-2108
Fax 859-261-1708

This code was developed through the cooperative efforts of the individuals on the Discipline Code Committee. The committee met as a group in a series of meetings and revised the previous discipline code in an effort to develop standards for the entire school community to labor together under an attempt to provide a comfortable academic atmosphere for all.

The committee shall meet annually at the end of the school year to review the discipline code to update it and to consider any suggestions, comments, or other feedback from the school community for implementation.

At the beginning of each year, a copy of this code shall be sent home with each student for both the parents and student to become familiar with. Teachers, administrators and other personnel who join the school system during the course of the school year shall receive copies of the code upon registration into the district.

All members of the school community (students, parents, teachers, administrators and other school personnel) are hereby reminded of their duty and obligation to familiarize themselves with the discipline code and abide by the content of the code.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Bellevue Independent School District operates with the premise that discipline is the key to a safe, orderly positive climate for learning. The administration, teachers and entire staff have high expectations for good student behavior.

The Student Code of Conduct clearly sets forth the high expectations for student behavior, and outlines the consequences for misbehavior. Furthermore, the Code of Conduct explains the process staff will use to discipline students. In the Bellevue Independent Schools, we believe in the aspect of positive parental involvement and the value of working together to solve problems and resolve issues. We invite you into our schools to meet principals and teachers, and to develop a better understanding of the role Bellevue Schools play in preparing the children of Bellevue to become productive adults. We also ask that parents take responsibility for setting high expectations for their children's behavior, and to support the school whenever a student is disciplined in school or suspended.

All students and parents/guardians are expected to read this book.

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to discuss this book with their children, and to help them understand their rights and responsibilities. After reading this Code of Student Conduct book, you must sign the attached form and return it to the school. If you have any questions, please contact your elementary or high school Principal.

Sincerely,

Wayne Starnes, Superintendent
Bellevue Independent Schools

CODE OF CONDUCT

All students, parents, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel are expected to abide by the STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT and behave in a manner that is conducive to learning. Rules and good conduct are important so that your child and others can learn, work, and play in a safe and clean school environment.

PHILOSOPHY

All citizens of the United States are guaranteed certain rights as individuals. However, these rights also carry with them certain responsibilities, which help to preserve both the individual's rights and the rights of others. Students are no exception to this basic principle. It is within this context that the adult members of the local community, whether they are administrators, teachers or parents, have an obligation and responsibility to assure the rights of students while preserving an educational environment in which teaching and learning can take place effectively.

This is the purpose upon which the code of conduct is founded. It sets standards of conduct that will aid in assuring success for all individuals in the school community. Individual rights and responsibilities are inseparable. However, rights become limited when groups of people are involved due to the need for mutual respect.

Thus students have the responsibilities of obeying rules and respecting the authority of those adults whose duty it is to ensure a successful education for all children under their care.



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Student Rights. Students have the right to:

1. A public education which meets the needs of individual students while maintaining high educational standards.
2. Notification of regulations and policies which pertain to them.
3. Respect from fellow students and school personnel.
4. Reasonable physical protection and safety of their person and property.
5. Consultation with teachers, counselors, administrators and other school personnel.
6. Presentation of concerns to school authorities and to receive replies from them regarding their concerns.
7. Examination of their own school records by the student if eighteen years old or older, legal guardians, or their authorized representatives.
8. Free elections of their fellow students in school organizations and the right to seek these offices.
9. Involvement and participation in school activities free from any racial, religious or sexual discrimination.

B. Student Responsibilities. Students have the responsibility to:

1. Maintain acceptable conduct and display proper consideration for the property and rights of others.
2. Show neatness and cleanliness in personal dress and hygiene which is not detrimental to school progress and the operation of the school while at the same time refrains from advocating sex or the use of alcohol or drugs.
3. Refrain from fighting, creating disturbances, excessive and unnecessary noise, profanity, language advocating sex, alcohol or drugs, verbal abuse, harassment, intimidation, threatening of others, carrying or using any weapon or item as a weapon on school premises, at school activities or on school time.
4. Refrain from the use of fireworks, snowballs, ice balls or any other dangerous or potentially dangerous items.
5. Refrain from the using or possessing of, or transmitting of an illegal or controlled substance, look-a-like substance, or alcoholic beverage.
6. Refrain from extortion, theft, gambling, or any other unlawful activity.
7. Keep attendance at all scheduled classes and refrain from acts of truancy either from school and/or class.
8. Complete all class assignments and homework in accordance with teachers' instructions.
9. Expound the truth in school related matters.
10. Refrain from cheating on all academic, athletic, and school related functions.
11. Follow the rules and regulations of the Board of Education, school administration and/or classroom teachers.
12. Students have the responsibility to report any threats against individuals to the proper authority.

C. Parents/Guardian Rights. Parents/Guardians have a right to:

1. Send their child to a school with an environment where learning is valued highly.
2. Enroll their child in regularly scheduled classes with minimal interruptions.
3. Expect high academic standards to be maintained at their school.
4. Expect all disruptive behavior to be dealt with fairly, firmly and quickly.
5. Review their student's personal school record.
6. Address questions concerning their child to the proper authority and to receive a reply in a reasonable time period.

D. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities. Parent/Guardian have the responsibility to:

1. Instill in their child the need and value of an education and the need for a positive school-learning environment.
2. Instill in their child a sense of responsibility.
3. Instill in their child a sense of respect.
4. Assist their child in understanding the disciplinary procedures of the school and stress the importance of following them.
5. See that the child attends school regularly and promptly.
6. Support the efforts of school personnel.
7. Become familiar with the educational policies and programs.
8. Demonstrate respect for all school personnel at school and school related activities.
9. In cases of divorce or any other legal action, parents/guardian have the responsibility to provide the school with a copy of the Restrictive Visitation or Custody Order of the Court. That order will be placed in the student's file and all school personnel will abide by it.
10. Show concern for the progress and grades of their student.
11. See that their child is neat and clean in his personal attire and hygiene.
12. Show proof of residence when registering a child. This includes: if renting - notarized statement from landlord; if living with relatives - notarized statement from relative; if bought house - copy of deed or closing.
13. Demonstrates responsibility to pay all fees on time.

E. Teachers' Rights. Teachers have the right to:

1. The support of administrators, co-workers and parents.
2. Private consultation with administrators only on private matters.
3. Work in a positive school environment with a minimum of disruption.
4. Safety from physical harm and verbal abuse.
5. Expect all student assignments to be completed as directed and on time.
6. Send or report to the office any student whose behavior or attitude significantly disrupts the positive school climate.
7. Take action to protect their own person or property, the persons or property of those under their care and school property.
8. Provide suggestions to aid in the formulation of policies that pertain to their relationships with students and school personnel.

F. Teachers Responsibilities. Teachers have the responsibility to:

1. Present appropriate subject matter materials and experiences to students and to inform students and parents of achievement and/or problems.
2. Plan a flexible course of study which meets all students' needs while maintaining high standards of academic achievement.
3. Evaluate students' assignments and return them as soon as possible.
4. Administer such disciplinary measures available to them as stated in this code in order to maintain order throughout the school or at school related activities without discrimination based on race, sex, or religion.
5. Exhibit exemplary behavior in speech and actions and cleanliness and neatness of personal attire and hygiene.
6. Maintain an atmosphere that lends itself to good behavior and to exhibit respect for students.
7. Reward exemplary behavior and work of students.
8. Maintain necessary records of student progress and attendance as accurately as possible.
9. Recommend retention in a class of any student who fails to meet the basic standards for such class.
10. Care for the equipment and physical facilities of the school.
11. Follow the rules, regulations, and policies of the Board of Education, administration and school in which he/she works.

G. Principal/Designated Administrator Rights. Principal/Designated Administrator has the right to:

1. The support of students, parents, and teachers in implementing and carrying out the educational programs and discipline policies established by the Board of Education and school.
2. Provide input for the establishment of regulations and procedures that relate to the school.
3. Safety from physical harm and verbal abuse.
4. Take action to protect their own person or property, the persons or property of those under their care and school property.
5. Expect respect from students, parents/guardians and the school staff.

H. Principal/Designated Administrator Responsibilities. Principal/Designated Administrator has the responsibility to:

1. Administer the school environment to provide the proper learning atmosphere.
2. Create and foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and consideration among students and staff members.
3. Administer discipline fairly, following the guidelines set forth in this code.
4. Exhibit exemplary behavior in action, speech and attire.
5. Evaluate and implement the educational program to improve learning and comply with regulations or laws of the District, State, and Nation.
6. Direct a program which communicates the code of conduct to the school community.

Alcohol, Drugs and Other Controlled Substances

Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited

No pupil shall possess, use, be under the influence of, sell or transfer any of the following on or about school property, at any location of a school-sponsored activity, or enroute to or from school or a school-sponsored activity while under direct supervision of a school employee.

1. Alcohol beverages
2. Controlled drug substances
3. Substances that "look like" a controlled substance. In instances involving look-alike substances, there must be evidence of the student's intent to pass off the item as a controlled substance.

Drugs Defined

Controlled substances means any substance or immediate precursor listed in Chapter 218 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes or any other substance which may be added by the Kentucky Department of Human Resources under regulations pursuant to KRS 218A.020.

Reporting

Employees of the District shall promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff or Kentucky State Police, by telephone or otherwise, if they know or have reasonable cause to believe that conduct has occurred which constitutes the use, possession or sale of controlled substances on the school premises or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school premises, on a school bus or at a school sponsored or sanctioned event.

Authorized Medication

Use of a drug authorized by and administered in accordance with a prescription from a physician or dentist shall not be considered in violation of this policy. Students shall be required to register any and all prescription and/or over-the-counter medication in the principal's office immediately upon arrival at school each day. Any drug that is not registered in the principal's office may be considered an illegal drug at school.

Penalty

Possession, use, sale, transmission, or being "under-the-influence" of alcohol, drugs or look-alikes shall result in immediate suspension with possible recommendation of expulsion for the remainder of the school year.

Tobacco

No pupil shall be allowed to possess tobacco, lighters or matches in any form in the school building or to and from gym during school hours or at any school sponsored activity. All uses of tobacco, lighters or matches are prohibited on elementary school property. Use of the above will be a suspension. No use of tobacco products is permitted on or about school property.

Awareness Program

The superintendent shall establish a drug-free/alcohol-free awareness program for all students which shall include notice to students and parents of the following:

1. The dangers of drug/alcohol abuse in the schools;
2. The District's policies and related procedures on drug-free/alcohol-free schools;
3. The requirement for mandatory compliance with the District's established standards of conduct, including those that prohibit use of alcohol, drugs and other controlled substances;
4. Information about available drug/alcohol counseling programs and available rehabilitation/student assistance programs;
5. Penalties that may be imposed upon students for drug/alcohol abuse violations.

Dress Code

The wearing of any attire, cosmetics, presentation of extraordinary personal appearance, or any unsanitary body conditions which in the judgment of the Principal, significantly disrupts the education process or threatens the health of other students is prohibited.

Principals shall enforce the dress code in their schools. (See individual school handbooks.) Students whose appearance does not conform to these rules will be asked to change clothing to meet this code. Violations may result in disciplinary action. Building principals have the flexibility to make adjustments to the dress code due to students' medical or religious reasons and SBDM Council Policies.

Attendance-Tardiness

Pupils are required to attend regularly and punctually at the school in which they are enrolled.

Living Outside the School District

Children whose parents live outside of the Bellevue Independent School District may be admitted to Bellevue Public Schools if the district where they reside agrees to sign a reciprocal agreement allowing the transfer of Average Daily Attendance (ADA) funds received from the Kentucky Department of Education for that student and upon the approval of the superintendent and principal. Students not covered by a signed reciprocal agreement shall be charged a tuition fee equal to the ADA funding received from the Kentucky Department of Education and upon the approval of the superintendent and principal.

Truancy Defined

Any student who has attained the age of six (6), but has not reached his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday, who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three (3) days or more, or tardy without valid excuse on three (3) days or more, is a truant.

Any student enrolled in a public school who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, but has not reached his/her twenty-first (21st) birthday, who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without valid excuse on three (3) or more days, is a truant.

Any student who has been reported as a truant two (2) or more times is a habitual truant.

Absence for less than a half day shall be considered tardiness.

Truants shall be reported to the Principal and then to the Director of Pupil Personnel both of whom shall take appropriate action.

Truancy Process (Consequences for Truancy)

After 3 unexcused absences or tardies, a letter is sent from the school principal or his *designee* to the parent/student. The letter explains the truancy law and consequences.

After 6 unexcused absences or tardies, another letter is sent from the school principal or his designee. The letter reiterates the truancy law and consequences. Additionally, the letter references the fact that the county

attorney will aggressively prosecute truants. Students in selected grade levels may qualify for participation in the truancy diversion program.

After 9 unexcused absences or tardy events the Director of Pupil Personnel(DPP) will send to the parent or guardian a letter of Final Notice indicating possible court action if the absences continue.

If the unexcused absence or tardy events continue following the final notice, the Director of Pupil Personnel from the school district will file the appropriate charge. A charge against the parent or adult student in violation KRS 159.150 will be filed through the Court Designated Works Office or the county attorney. A charge against a juvenile student in violation of KRS 159.150 will be filed through the office of the court-designated worker.

Excused Absences

An excused absence or tardiness is one for which work may be made up, such as:

1. Death or severe illness in the pupil's immediate family
2. Illness of the pupil
3. Religious holidays and practices
4. If approved in advance by the Principal, one (1) day for attendance at the Kentucky State Fair
5. Other valid reasons as determined by the Principal

School Handbook

Each school handbook shall include specific attendance requirements.

Arrival and Dismissal

Pupils shall not be admitted to the building until ten minutes before first block in the morning, except in inclement weather, unless given permission by a teacher or Principal. The Principal will use his best judgment in regards to weather. *Loitering*, to move slowly, or to linger in, or near school without any specific reason, or written permission, is in violation of KRS 525.090. Students are not to assemble on private property near or around school property, before or after school. The same is true for the school building itself. Students are to report directly to school property in the morning and leave school property promptly in the afternoon. When permitted to remain, a teacher must be present.

Designation of School Authority

The pupils are under the authority of the Principals and teachers while in school and while going to and returning from school, at lunch and at all school related activities. (Principal also means Assistant Principal or those acting on behalf of the administration.) Students are not permitted to loiter in businesses around school before or after school hours.

Withdrawal/Moving to a New District

Parents/Guardians shall give notice to the Principal whenever they are going to withdraw from school or move to another district. If said pupil is moving to another district, the Principal shall provide the guardian with the "Parental Authorization for Release of Student Information and Records" form to be filled out at the school in the presence of authorized office personnel. All fees must be paid and books turned in before records will be sent.

Should the Principal's office receive a request for student information and/or records from any other school or other agency, the Principal shall first have the "Parental Authorization for Release of Student Information and Records" form completed by the parent. If said parent has moved from the district and cannot be contacted, the form should be mailed to the school or agency requesting said information and records. Upon receipt of the completed form, the Principal shall then forward the information.

In any case involving a student eighteen years of age or older, the student shall be required to complete the "Parental Authorization for Release of Student Information and Records" form.

Bus Rules

1. The bus driver may assign seats.
2. Be courteous.
3. No profanity.
4. Do not eat or drink on the bus, unless special permission from the principal. Keep the bus clean, pick up garbage and place in proper receptacle.
5. Violence is prohibited.
6. Remain seated.
7. No smoking.
8. Keep your hands and head inside the bus.
9. Do not destroy property.
10. For your own safety, do not distract the driver through misbehavior.
11. Make yourself aware of all exits and proper evacuation procedures.
12. Keep all objects out of aisles.

Misbehavior on the bus

Students, whose behavior endangers the safe operation of the school bus, will have corrective action applied by the school Principal. A Principal may use informal in-school measures, parent conference or suspension from school, depending upon the behavior.

The penalty will be at the discretion of the Principal depending on the circumstances. (May include removal from bus for 1 to 10 days or permanent removal from bus by a formal hearing). Serious misbehavior on the bus may also be cause for punishment up to and including suspension or expulsion from school.



Damage to School Property

No pupil shall cut, damage or deface in any way any portion of the school buildings, furniture or any other school property. If a pupil damages school property, the parent or guardian will be held responsible for the full amount of the damage.

Items Not Permitted in School

Pupils shall not bring into the classroom any book, paper, or other article not in connection with their schoolwork. Wristwatches with alarms, and look-a-like weapons are prohibited on school property. Radio headsets, electronic games and trading cards are not permitted in school. Toys and live animals are not permitted in school unless given permission from the teacher or principal. Laser pointers are not permitted.

Eligibility requirements for holding offices in student organizations

- A. In order for a student to be nominated for office, he must have an overall annual average from the preceding year of two (2.0). Equivalent to letter grade of C. For organizations which have spring elections for office, a student must have this average at the close of the first semester.
- B. At the close of the first semester, any student who has not maintained this "C" average for the said semester, shall forfeit his office for the remainder of the year. This same regulation shall apply to student aids who work in the library or in the various school offices.
- C. Students who are suspended from attendance of school for causes as stated in the discipline code shall continue to hold offices of organizations or class or being a representative of any class or classes, only upon recommendation of the Principal. The Principal shall make a decision as to whether this dismissal from student office shall be for the remainder of the semester, or for the entire school year.
- D. Eligibility for athletics - administered by the Athletic Director, Principal and/or Assistant Principal.
- E. After 3 unexcused absences a student will not be able to hold an office.
- F. Students who are not performing the leadership responsibilities of the office may be removed from office by the principal and faculty representative.

DISCIPLINE

It is in the best interest of the students that the Bellevue Schools foster the maintenance of a classroom environment which is conducive to the learning process. That process works best when the students are cooperative, attentive, and well behaved. Non-attentive, uncooperative, ill-behaved students not only detract from their education but from others as well. Students are not to show displays of affection at school or at school-sponsored activities. Also any action that endangers the well being of any other person shall be dealt with in an appropriate manner in order to assure the safety of all students. It is the responsibility of teachers and administrators to take steps to modify the behavior of the non-attentive, uncooperative, ill-behaved students. Teachers may detain pupils at the close of school in the afternoon to make up work, or for the purpose of discipline.

Listed below are the steps and/or procedures that will be used in behavior modification.

A. Steps and/or procedures approved for Principals

1. Detention
2. Removal of student from a class
3. Friday Detention
4. Suspension for up to ten (10) days and/or recommendation for expulsion. The following misbehaviors are causes for suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion. The misbehavior may occur while on school property or off school property at school sponsored activities. Any conduct which is contrary to school rules/policy and is significantly detrimental to the school and its students may result in suspension and/or expulsion.
 - a. Willful disobedience or defiance of the authority of the teachers or administrator
 - b. Use of profanity or vulgarity
 - c. Assault or battery or abuse of other students or school personnel
 - d. The threat of force or violence
 - e. The use or possession of alcohol, drugs, or look-alike substances
 - f. Stealing, destruction, or defacing of school property or personal property
 - g. The carrying or use of weapons or dangerous instruments.
 - h. Harassment - sexual or otherwise
 - i. Promoting the use of alcohol or drugs
 - j. Other incorrigible bad conduct*

**Incorrigible bad conduct is defined as any unique situation not covered in the code, three or more suspensions in one school year or any unique situation not covered in this code of conduct that is significantly detrimental to the school, its students or its educational goals.*

B. Steps and/or procedures approved for Teachers

1. Extra assignments of educational value
2. Requiring students to remain after school up to sixty minutes
3. Calling parents
4. Sending the students to the Principal or his designate
5. Fill out an appropriate referral

C. Corporal Punishment

"Corporal Punishment" is defined as the deliberate infliction of physical pain by any means upon the whole or any part of a student's body as a penalty or punishment for student misbehavior.

No person employed or engaged by this school district shall inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment or bodily pain upon a pupil; provided however, that any such person may, within the scope of his employment, use and apply such amounts of physical restraint as may be reasonable and necessary to protect oneself, the pupil or others from physical injury, to obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous objects within control of the pupil or to protect property from serious harm. 1992 Legislation permits local Boards of Education the option of using corporal punishment in their schools. The Bellevue Board of Education chooses not to use corporal punishment.

E. Friday Detention Program

The Friday Detention Program of the Bellevue Independent Schools will be operated in accordance with these regulations. Students assigned to the detention program will be expected to abide by the rules and regulations.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Friday School Detention Program is to provide a constructive and meaningful alternative to the standard out-of-school suspension and corporal punishment. By requiring students to correct their misbehaviors on their own time rather than taking time away from school, the Friday School Detention Program is expected to serve as a deterrent to unacceptable behavior while at school.

Refusal to Serve:

Refusal to attend the Friday School Detention Program as assigned or misconduct during the program, will result in suspension from school for up to ten school days or until the pupil is brought to a conference with the Principal or Assistant Principal by a parent or guardian. At this conference, arrangements will be made to complete the original assignment and additional Friday School Detention assignments will be made. Failure to appear at that assignment will result in suspension until the Friday Detention is served. Continued failure to serve could result in court referral and/or expulsion from school. Students who are issued several Friday Detentions without correction of the problem may be considered beyond control and thus eligible for suspension or expulsion.

This Board policy does not attempt to do away with suspensions as a viable alternative for discipline when appropriate. Violations such as: profanity directed toward a teacher, attacking a teacher, insubordination or other acts in which a student disrupts the educational process of others, or a student is considered dangerous to themselves or others will still necessitate suspension or expulsion.

E. Suspension

Suspension is the unexcused removal of a student from a school by a Principal for infraction of the discipline code. A suspension may last from 1 to 10 days. Following a suspension, the parent or guardian may be required to have a conference with the Principal. While on suspension, students are not permitted to participate in school activities nor be around school property during suspension period.

F. Due Process

Students have a right to be heard, to have explained the charges against them, to have a conference with the Principal and/or Superintendent, and to have a hearing before the Board of Education. No suspension shall be made unless the due process procedures described below are followed:

- A. Oral or written notice of the charges which constitute cause for suspension must be given the pupil
- B. The evidence supporting the charges must be explained to the pupil if he or she denies the charges
- C. The pupil must be given the opportunity to respond to the charge

As a general rule, the preceding procedures are to be followed prior to the removal of the pupil. However, if the superintendent or principal believe that immediate suspension is necessary to protect persons, property, or to avoid disruptions of the academic process, the pupil may be suspended immediately and the necessary notice and hearing are to be held as soon as possible after the suspension is effected.

G. Appeal

1. In order to appeal a suspension, the following procedures shall be followed by the parent/guardian:
 - a. They immediately appeal the Principal's decision to suspend their child to the Superintendent. To do so, they should request a conference with the Superintendent by phone.
 - b. They may appeal the decision of the Superintendent to the Board of Education by requesting a hearing before the Board. If they request a hearing before the Board, they may request that the hearing be public or in closed session. At the hearing, they have a right to confront and question witnesses against their child and present witnesses on their child's behalf. They should make their request for such a hearing in writing to the Superintendent so that the necessary arrangements can be made.
 - c. They have a right to have the assistance of legal counsel in all of these proceedings. If an attorney will represent them, they should notify the Superintendent or Principal a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to a conference with them and notify the Superintendent as soon as possible prior to a hearing before the Board.
 - d. They are also informed that the Board will not act on requests for changes in administrative decisions unless all affected parties are notified and present at the proceedings.

H. Expulsion

In the case of recommended expulsion by the Principal, the following procedures will be adhered to:

- a. The Principal will suspend the student.
- b. The Principal will notify the student and parents as to recommendation.
- c. The Principal will notify the Board of Education as to his recommendation.
- d. The Board of Education will notify the student and parents as to the time and place when the matter will come before the Board. The hearing will be held as soon as possible.
- e. Any student suspended on three (3) occasions may be recommended by the principal for expulsion.

In the case of recommended expulsion of a special education student by the Principal, the following procedures will be adhered to:

- a. The Principal will suspend the student.
- b. The Principal will arrange a meeting of the Admissions and Release Committee. If the committee determines that the student's disruptive behavior was not a result of the handicapped condition, the student may be expelled following from the point on the procedures described for expulsion of any student. If the committee determines the disruptive behavior was the result of the handicapped condition, the student may not be expelled.

I. Search

1. Students are informed that school officials may search a student's clothing, accessories (i.e., purse, wallet, book sack, notebook, gym bag, etc.) if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student has in his/ her possession or control something contrary to school rules or policy or significantly detrimental to the school and its students.
 - a. At least one other Board employee shall witness the search.
 - b. If unlawful items or contraband (i.e., weapons, controlled substances, or stolen articles) are found, the parent or guardian shall be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible.
 - c. Any unlawful items or contraband (i.e., weapons, controlled substances, or stolen articles) discovered in such a search can be used as evidence and as a basis for cause in a suspension or expulsion hearing.
2. Search of School Lockers and Desks - School lockers and desks in the Bellevue Public Schools are school property and are under the ultimate control and custody of the Board. The Board hereby declares it to be a matter of public policy that it reserves the right for school officials to inspect the contents of school lockers and desks.

- a. The locker or desk of a particular student may be searched if there is a reasonable suspicion that something contrary to school rules or policy or significantly detrimental to the school and its students will be found in the locker or desk. When possible, the search of the particular locker or desk shall be conducted in the presence of the student(s) whose assigned locker(s) or desk(s) is the subject of the search. Any unlawful items or contraband discovered in such a search can be used as evidence and as a basis for cause in a suspension or expulsion hearing.
- b. School officials may conduct a general search of all student lockers and/or desks for the purpose of enforcing school policies or regulations for health, safety or educational order. If during such a general search unlawful items or contraband are inadvertently discovered, such items could be used as evidence and as a basis for cause in a suspension or expulsion hearing.

CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

Students are accountable to their schools in their role as students as well as to the law in their capacity as citizens. The criminal laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and of the Federal Government apply to the conduct of all persons on school property. Violations should be dealt with according to these laws and local school board policy.

Misbehavior that results in violence to another's person or property or which pose a direct threat to the safety of others in the school are clearly criminal. Examples, but not limited to the following are extortion, arson, bomb threats, possession, use or transfer of dangerous weapons, assault and battery, vandalism, theft, possession or sale of stolen property, furnishing, selling or possession of an unauthorized substance, falsely pulling fire alarms or any unmodified behaviors.

The school may report these offenses to the appropriate law enforcement agency and assist these agencies in investigating and prosecuting the offender.

BULLYING/HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION

Definition

Bullying/Harassment/Discrimination is unlawful behavior based on race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, or disability that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive that it adversely affects a student's education or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment.

Prohibition

Bullying/Harassment/Discrimination is prohibited at all times on school property and off school grounds during school-sponsored activities. This prohibition also applies to visitors to the school who may come into contact with employees and students.

The use of lewd, profane or vulgar language is prohibited. In addition, students shall not engage in behaviors such as hazing, bullying, menacing, taunting, verbal or physical abuse of others, or other threatening behavior. Such behavior is disruptive of the educational process and interferes with the ability of other students to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered.

THREATS

Threats of any kind, written or verbal, will be treated with the utmost seriousness. Violation of this policy will result in Friday detention, suspension or expulsion. Additionally, the school may report the offense to the appropriate law enforcement agency and charges may be filed.



WEAPONS

Carrying, bringing, using or possessing any weapon or dangerous instrument in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited. Except for authorized law enforcement officials, the Board specifically prohibits the carrying of concealed *weapons* on school property.

Violation of this policy by staff members shall constitute reasons for disciplinary action, including possible termination. Violation of this policy by students shall require that the Principal immediately make a report to the Superintendent, who shall determine if charges for expulsion from the District schools should be filed under policy 09.435.

Violations by visitors shall be reported to a law enforcement agency.

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

The penalty for students who bring a firearm or other deadly weapon, destructive device, or booby trap device to school or onto the school campus/property, under jurisdiction of the District, shall be expelled for a minimum of twelve (12) months under policy 09.435. However, the Board may modify such expulsions on a case-by-case basis.

Any student who brings to school a firearm or other deadly weapon, destructive device, or booby trap device shall be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system.

Exceptions

An exception may be made for students participating in an authorized curricular or extracurricular activity or team involving the use of firearms and to those persons listed in KRS 527.

Law enforcement officials are authorized to bring *weapons* onto school property in performance of their duties.

STATE POSTING REQUIREMENTS

The Superintendent shall post the following notice in prominent locations in the schools, including, but not limited to, sports arenas, gymnasiums, stadiums and cafeterias. The notice shall be at least six (6) inches high and fourteen (14) inches wide and shall state:

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A WEAPON ON SCHOOL PROPERTY IN KENTUCKY IS A FELONY PUNISHABLE BY A MAXIMUM OF FIVE (5) YEARS IN PRISON AND A TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR (\$ 10,000) FINE.

The above criminal penalty shall not apply to those persons listed in KRS 527.070 (3).

STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Employees of the District shall promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff or Kentucky State Police, by telephone or otherwise, if they know or have reasonable cause to believe that conduct has occurred which constitutes the carrying, possession or use of a deadly weapon on the school premises or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school premises, on a school bus or at a school sponsored or sanctioned event.

For state reporting purposes, a deadly weapon shall be defined as:

1. any weapon from which a shot, readily capable of producing death or serious physical injury, may be discharged;
2. any knife;
3. billy, nightstick or club;
4. blackjack or slapjack;
5. nunchaku karate sticks;
6. shuriken or death star; or
7. artificial knuckles made from metal, plastic or other similar hard material.

Employees who receive information from a student or other person regarding conduct required to be reported shall report the conduct in the same manner as stated above.

ENFORCEMENT

In the enforcement of this policy, principals may authorize, if they have reasonable suspicion, searches in compliance with applicable Board policies.

GANG GRAFFITI

Any form of gang graffiti is strictly prohibited. This includes books, notebooks, jewelry, clothing or any hand gestures. Strict disciplinary action will be taken against any student violating this policy. Disciplinary action will be Friday detention, suspension or expulsion.

POSSESSION OF PAGING DEVICES

Possession of Paging Devices Prohibited

Telecommunication devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process. Therefore, telecommunication devices are not allowed on school property during the regular school day.

Students violating this prohibition shall be subject to disciplinary action. In addition, an administrator shall confiscate the telecommunication device, which shall only be returned to the student's parent/guardian.

Students may bring telecommunication devices to school-sponsored or school-related activities on school property owned by the Bellevue Board of Education only after regular school hours.

Students are responsible for keeping up with telecommunication devices they bring to school-related activities after regular school hours. The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft, or destruction of telecommunication devices brought onto school property.

Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning appropriate use of telecommunication devices.

Notice of Board Policy

Notice of this policy and penalties for violating it shall be published annually in the school district's Code-Of-Conduct Handbook.

Reference: KRS 158.165

Related Policies: 09.426, 09.438

Reporting

A person who discovers a student in possession of a paging device in violation of KRS 158.165 shall report the violation to the appropriate school administrator, as determined by procedures developed by the Superintendent, who shall order a peace officer or appropriate school employee to confiscate the device.

Paging Device Defined

A "Paging device" means a telecommunications device, including a telephone, that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor, including, but not limited to, cellular phones.

“NO PASS, NO DRIVE” EDUCATION LAW (H.B. 43)

Any applicant for a driver's permit, who is under the age of eighteen (18), and who has not graduated from high school shall provide proof, issued by Bellevue High School that the applicant is currently enrolled or has been enrolled in **the prior semester of school and is not** or has not been found academically deficient. Students in regular or alternative education are defined as academically deficient if they fail **to pass three full credit** classes or their equivalent for the semester. If a special education student is failing a class in which he/she is being ‘mainstreamed’ into a regular classroom at the end of the first quarter of each semester, the Admissions and Release Committee will determine if such placement should continue or if more appropriate placement should be sought.

The Principal or Assistant Principal will immediately report to the Superintendent any sixteen or seventeen year old student who has withdrawn from school, or has at least nine unexcused absences or is academically deficient in the preceding semester. The Superintendent or his designee shall report the name(s) of such student(s) to the Transportation Cabinet within ten days of receiving notification from the individual school. (A student who wishes his license reinstated has a right to a hearing academically deficient or that the loss of license was an undue hardship on the student and his family.)

Alternatives that Bellevue High School will provide to assist deficient students include alternative school, tutorial programs for at risk youths, guidance counseling and summer school.

FLEXIBILITY OF CODE:

The Code of Student Conduct is a guide to administer discipline in a fair and consistent manner but should allow flexibility of individual cases and extenuating circumstances. It is not and was never intended for this code to be absolute. Depending upon the student's behavior, the Principal reserves the right to bypass any or all of the consequences deemed more appropriate.

Friday Evening Detention	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
Removal From Extra Curriculars	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
Expulsion Procedure Initiated	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
Court Action	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
Removal From Class Temporary or Permanent	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
Suspension (1 – 10 Days)	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
Parent Conference	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
Referral to Counselor	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
Informal In-School Measures	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
DISCIPLINE MEANS	
Truancy or Tardiness to School or Class	
Non-Attendance to Class	
Leaving School Grounds Without Permission	
Disruption of School/Class Environment	
Willful Disobedience or Defiance of Teachers or Administration	
Incomplete Classroom Assignment	
Cheating	
Contraband in Building/Classroom	
Unacceptable Language or Attire	
Any Form of Fighting, or Assault/Battery/Sexual Abuse, or Attempting to Injure or Exposing Others to Injury or Purposefully Injuring Others	
Interfering with School Personnel in Their Duties	
Possession of /Use of/Transmitting of Drugs, Look-alike Drugs, Alcohol or Fireworks	
Possession of/Use of Any Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous Item	
Use of Tobacco	
Promoting the Sale of Drugs	
Possession of Lighters or Matches	

X's to the right of each behavior violation indicates those discipline means that may be used by school personnel. The discipline means may be used either individually or collectively.

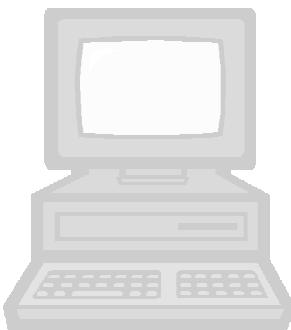
BEHAVIOR VIOLATIONS

BELLEVUE BOARD OF EDUCATION INTERNET USAGE POLICY

The use of telecommunications and other new technologies has changed the way that information is accessed, communicated and transferred and has altered instruction and student learning. Electronic information, services and networks provided directly or indirectly by the library media center should be readily, equally and equitably accessible to all library users. Since access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship, access to rich information resources should be provided to everyone. The Bellevue Board of Education generally supports the use of electronic resources provided that such is based upon appropriate usage of resources. Therefore, it is imperative that students and staff develop the appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. It is the teacher's responsibility to supervise student access to the Internet.

Electronic resources provide unprecedented opportunities to expand the scope of information to users. Telecommunications, electronic information sources and networked services have significantly altered the information landscape of schools by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources and access to the global community. Providing access to electronic information, services and networks (i.e. Internet) is not the same thing as selecting and purchasing materials for a library collection. Bellevue Board of Education requires that materials be consistent with district-adopted guidelines, support and enrich curriculum and address instructional needs, student learning styles, abilities and developmental levels.

Since telecommunications and the use of the Internet opens classrooms to electronic resources that have not been screened by educators for use by various age levels, independent student use of such resources will be permitted upon submission of permission/agreement forms by parents of minors (under 18 years of age) and by the students themselves. The staff is expected to integrate use of such information throughout the curriculum and provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources.



Parental information regarding the use of internet and electronic mail:

The internet, a global electronic information infrastructure, is a system of networks used by educators, businesses, the government, the military and other organizations. In schools and libraries, the Internet can be used to educate, inform and entertain. As a learning resource, the Internet is similar to books, magazines, video CD ROM and other electronic informational sources. To gain access to E-mail and the Internet, everyone must sign and return the attached form to the School Technology Coordinator. Students 18 and over may sign their own names without parental signature. Access to E-mail and the Internet will enable everyone to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make the Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, one may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to everyone from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Bellevue Board of Education supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

Electronic Mail (E-Mail) & Internet Rules:

Everyone is responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or school library. As communications on the network are often public in nature, general school rules for behavior and communications apply. The network is provided for research and for communication with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required and access is a privilege-not a right.

Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring or controlling the communications of individuals using the network. The district will not be responsible for cost incurred using the network or individual misconduct.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that the users are using the system in a responsible manner. Users should not expect that files stored on the district servers will always be private.

Users who do not follow the guidelines of the Acceptable Use Policy will lose access to the network, be disciplined by the building principal, or will be subject to legal action.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT PERMITTED

- * Sending or displaying offensive messages, threats or pictures
- * Using obscene language
- * Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- * Damaging computer systems or computer networks
- * Violating copyright laws
- * Using password other than own
- * Trespassing in other's folder, work or files
- * Intentionally wasting limited resources
- * Using the network for commercial purpose
- * Downloading unacceptable material
- * Printing from the internet without staff approval

Before a student can access the Internet for research materials, the student must perform the following procedures:

- Read the E-mail and Internet Rules and Regulations
- Sign the E-mail and Internet User Agreement
- Have a parent or guardian read and sign the E-mail and Internet User Agreement
- Give the signed agreement to the School Technology Coordinator and/or Library Media Specialist