

MISCONDUCT

(resulting in discipline at the discretion of the principal)

Attendance

Skipping school or leaving school without permission or tardiness. Parents and guardians are responsible for their students' attendance. There are penalties for parents and guardians who break this law.

Disrespect To Teachers/Administrators

Failure To Serve Detention Or Attend Saturday School

Forging An Official Note To/From School

Improper Conduct

Improper Dress, Cleanliness and Grooming

Dress or grooming that is or could be disruptive of others' education shall not be permitted. Hats or other types of headwear are not permitted without the principal's approval. Students are expected to follow the dress or uniform code of the school.

Indecent Language

Littering On Campus

Off-Campus Conduct

A student may be suspended for conduct away from school, if the conduct could disrupt the education process at his/her school.

Tobacco Possession/Use (including electronic cigarettes and unregulated nicotine products)

Incident will result in a citation by the school principal/resource officer.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is defined as physical discipline. Corporal punishment must be approved as policy for the school by the principal, and students must be notified what misconduct could result in this type of discipline. It is not intended to be used as a first method of discipline, but after several other methods have been used to modify a student's behavior. Corporal punishment must be witnessed by a second school official or teacher. A parent can then request a written explanation of the reasons for the punishment and the name of the witness.

SEARCHES

Students have the right to be safe and secure at school and pursue their education in a disciplined environment conducive to learning. Therefore, students and all their property will be subject to random administrative searches. Refusal to cooperate with a reasonable request may result in disciplinary action.

LOCKER USE

The school has the authority and control over the locker and may gain access to it at any time. Any lock to which the school does not have the key or combination will be removed by the school.

STUDENT VEHICLES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students of driving age are permitted to operate their own vehicles on campus if they have proof of liability insurance coverage and pay required parking fees. However, a student shall permanently lose the privilege to have a vehicle on school grounds if the student is involved in any manner with drugs or drug paraphernalia, other controlled substances including alcohol or possession of a weapon. A principal may prohibit a student from driving a vehicle on school property for a specific period of time for violation(s) of any school regulations. Vehicles parked on school property are subject to search. Parking fees will not be refunded at any time. The school system is not liable for any loss or damage.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

By law, school bus transportation is a privilege and not a right. A student shall be prevented from using school bus transportation if his/her behavior physically endangers other riders, causes problems on the school bus or when he/she breaks state and/or local rules and regulations pertaining to school bus transportation.

SUSPENSION PROCEDURES

Short-Term Suspension Of Ten Days Or Less

The student will be informed of the reason for suspension prior to serving the suspension. If the student denies the charge, he/she will be given an informal hearing where an explanation of the evidence is given and the student is afforded an opportunity to respond. If a student's presence in the school is posing any danger to other students or school officials, or a continual interruption of student education, the student will be removed from the school immediately. In this case, the notice, information hearing, and parent notification will follow as soon as possible. The matter may be referred to local law enforcement officials.

When a student is suspended, the principal will notify the parent or guardian and the Superintendent of the suspension, cause and condition for readmission within 24 hours.

If the suspension is more than five days, the principal will develop a behavior modification plan which will be reviewed by the Superintendent upon request.

A short-term suspension of ten days or less cannot be appealed beyond the school level.

Long-Term Suspension and Expulsion

School administrators will notify the parent or guardian and the Superintendent of a student suspension of more than ten days, the cause and conditions for readmission within 24 hours. The administrator will give written notice to the parent or guardian of the suspension and their rights to appeal. The notice will be sent by mail or be hand delivered.

The administrator will develop a behavior modification plan for the student, which will be reviewed by the Superintendent upon request.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

(for long-term suspension or expulsion)

Appeals will be filed with the administrator who suspended the student, orally or in writing, within five calendar days of the notice.

The first level of appeals for a non-zero tolerance offense is to a committee of three school administrators. The hearing will be held not later than ten school days after the first day of the suspension. A school representative and the parent/student will be allowed to present the case to the committee regarding the suspension. Either party may have an attorney present as a silent witness.

The committee may:

1. decide in favor of the school administrator
2. override the suspension
3. assign the student to an alternative program
4. suspend the student for a specified length of time

The decision may be appealed to the second level, which is the Superintendent or his/her designee, orally or in writing within five calendar days. The Superintendent or his/her designee has the right to any of the same four options as the appeals committee. The first level appeal for a zero-tolerance offense is the Superintendent or his designee.

The decision may be appealed to the third level, which is the Board of Education. The Superintendent must be notified in writing within five calendar days. The Board may act upon a review of the record or may conduct a hearing.

Only the Superintendent can modify a suspension for a zero-tolerance offense.

NOTE: This code will be implemented in compliance with the requirements of applicable Federal and State statutes and accompanying regulations governing the appropriate discipline of students suspected or identified as having a disability.

It is the policy of the Hamilton County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national origin, creed, religion, age, marital status, or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies.

A complaint may be filed by anyone who has a grievance regarding discrimination as set forth in one of the following statutes:

- (1) The Rehabilitation Act of 1972, Section 504;
- (2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; or
- (3) Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

Marsha Drake is the Title VI and Title IX coordinator for Hamilton County Schools. Mrs. Drake may be reached by calling (423) 209-8654.



HAMILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS



CODE OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

