

## STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

The following rules of conduct apply whenever a student is on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, or otherwise subject to the authority of school officials. These rules also apply off school property if the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the District. These rules also apply off school property, if the misconduct is directed at a District official or employee or the property of a District official or employee (refer to Student Handbook).

Violation by a student of any one or more of these may result in disciplinary action, including Tuesday School, detention, suspension, emergency removal, and/or expulsion, or other alternatives deemed appropriate by the administration, including referral to the appropriate authority for prosecution. For certain serious offenses committed by a student age 16 or over, the District may also seek to have the student permanently excluded from school in accordance with Ohio law.

1. **Disruption of School** - A student shall not by use of violence, force, coercion, threat, harassment, insubordination, or repeated lack of cooperation, cause disruption or obstruction to the educational process, including all curricular and extra-curricular activities.
2. **Damage to School Property** - A student shall not cause, incite, or attempt to cause damage to school property, including buildings, grounds, equipment, or materials.
3. **Damage to Private Property** - A student shall not cause, incite, or attempt to cause damage to private property on or off school premises at any school activity.
4. **Threatening or Bullying or Hazing** - A student shall not threaten or bully teachers, students or other persons.
5. **Assault and/or Fighting** - A student shall not cause physical injury, or behave in such a manner which could threaten to cause physical injury to school staff, other students, or other persons, while under the jurisdiction of the school. Students who urge others to fight may be disciplined as though they were a violator of the no fighting policy.
6. **Dangerous Activities, Weapons and Instruments** - A student shall not engage in any activity which threatens, endangers or tends to threaten or endanger the health or safety of students, teachers, other school personnel or visitors to school property or school-sponsored activities. A student shall not possess, handle, transmit or conceal any object, which might be considered a weapon or instrument of violence.

Examples of such instruments are included in but not limited to the following: lighters, guns, knives, smoke bombs, any dangerous ordnance or explosive, martial arts instruments, fireworks.

7. **Tobacco** - A student shall not smoke, use tobacco, or possess any substance containing tobacco in any area under the control of the school district or at any activity supervised by the school district. Tobacco look-a-like products, such as mint snuff, are included within the prohibitions of this rule.

Students serving as a "lookout" or aiding and abetting smokers will be disciplined as though they were violators of the no-smoking policy.

Violation of the tobacco policy will result in progressive forms of discipline:

- 1st offense for possession will result in a warning followed by detentions.
- Subsequent offenses for possession and offenses involving the use of tobacco will result in suspension.
- Expulsion will be recommended for students suspended three (3) times for violation of the tobacco policy.

Student handbooks published by the various buildings in the school system shall include the following statement:

Students serving as a "lookout" or aiding and abetting smokers will be disciplined as though they were violators of the no-smoking policy.

"No student shall be in possession of tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, or use tobacco within any school building, on school property, or at any activity supervised by the school district."

8. **Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Caffeine Pills, and Stimulant Drugs, PRE-SCRIPTION MEDICATIONS, and Other Pills/SUBSTANCES** - A student shall not display, possess, attempt to sell, transmit, attempt to transmit, purchase, attempt to purchase, use or have used any steroid, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, caffeine pills, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage or beverage promoted as an alcoholic substitute, inhalant, drug paraphernalia, other pills/ substances, or any other mind-altering substance within any school building, on school property, during open lunch or while participating in or attending school or school-sponsored activities. This includes possession, sale and/or distribution of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications.

A student shall not use, possess, distribute, attempt to distribute, sell, purchase, attempt to purchase or package any counterfeit or look-alike drug. Empty alcohol containers are also prohibited on school property. A counterfeit controlled substance is defined as:

- a. any drug that bears, or whose container or label bears a trademark, trade name, or identifying mark without authorization of the owner.
- b. any substance that is represented as a controlled substance.
- c. any substance other than a controlled substance that a reasonable person would believe to be a controlled substance.

9. **Theft** - A student shall not take, attempt to take, or possess the property or equipment of the school district or the property of another student, teacher, visitor, or employee of the school district.

10. **Frightening, Degrading, or Disgraceful Acts** - A student shall not engage in any hazing or other act which frightens, degrades, or tends to frighten, degrade, disgrace or harass a teacher, student, or other person by written or verbal, or by means of gestures.
11. **Insubordination** - A student shall not disregard or refuse to obey reasonable directions given by school personnel.
12. **School Transportation** - All students shall obey all reasonable directions given by bus drivers and comply with basic safety regulations.
13. **Dress and Appearance** - A student shall not dress in a manner that will present health or safety problems or cause disruption of class. Examples of inappropriate dress include, but are not limited to:
  - a. hats or coats during the school day (6:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.)
  - b. spiked bracelets or necklaces or long linked chains as decorative apparel.
  - c. book bags. Book bags are not to be taken to classrooms or worn in the hallways other than when entering or leaving the building.
14. **Truancy/Excessive Absence/Tardiness** – See Administrative Procedure and Letters - 9.06a.
15. **Sexual Harassment** - A student shall not display unwelcomed sexual advances, request sexual favors, and/or present other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
16. **Repeated Violations of Directions, Policies, Rules, Etc.** - A student shall not repeatedly fail to comply with direction, policies, rules, etc. of a teacher, student teacher, substitute teacher, teacher's aide, principal, or other authorized school personnel, during any period of time when the student is under the authority of any such school personnel.
17. **Altered or Forged Passes** - A student shall not alter, forge, or use a fraudulent pass/ excuse.
18. **Public Display of Affection** - A student shall not commit an inappropriate display of affection and bodily contact beyond hand holding while on the school premises, or while in the custody of the school, or in the course of a school-related activity.
19. **Profanity/Obscene Language/Swearing** - Profanity/obscene language will not be tolerated on school property. While your freedom of expression may be appealing to some, others may resent your lack of knowledge of the English language. No material may be printed, distributed, or circulated if it contains obscene or defamatory material and/or would tend to disrupt the educational process and interfere with the rights of others to express or receive ideas or opinions.
20. **Extortion** - A student shall not compel or attempt to compel any student, school employee or other person to give up anything of value by means of threat, harassment, intimidation, or injury to person, property, or reputation.

21. **Ethnic Slur and/or Intimidation** - The Findlay City School Administration recognizes that, in order to create an environment conducive to learning and to best facilitate the learning process, all students, regardless of their race, color, ancestry, national origin, or religion, have the right to an education in an atmosphere free of all forms of slurs, disparagement and intimidation. The Administration further recognizes that certain acts against persons or groups because of a person's or group's race, color, ancestry, religion, or national origin, for the purpose of inciting and provoking bodily injury, intimidation, or harassment, poses a threat to the order and safety of our schools and has a negative effect on the learning environment in the schools. Ethnic intimidation is the harassment or intimidation of a person or group through the use of racial or religious slurs, profanity, denigrating racial or religious remarks, obscene gestures, and other conduct of this type. Other forms of ethnic intimidation might be fighting, vandalism, or threats and would be punishable under one or more section of the Code of Conduct.
22. **Bomb Threats** - A student shall not make any bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat.

**DUE PROCESS**  
**(Out-of-School Suspensions, Expulsions and Removals)**

Due process for out-of-school suspensions, expulsions and removals will be in accordance with O.R.C. Section 3313.66. No due process guarantees are implied as to any in-school suspension (defined as a suspension where the student will serve all of the suspension in a school setting). With respect to the suspension of any student from any particular extra-curricular activities, no due process guarantees beyond what appears in O.R.C. Section 3313.664 are implied. The Superintendent may prohibit a student from participating in a particular or all extra-curricular activities independent of or in lieu of other disciplinary action for any violation of this policy or any other duly promulgated rule applicable to the activity or activities in question. Similarly, the Athletic Director, relevant coach, or director, may prohibit a student from any particular or all extra-curricular activities falling within such person's responsibility independent of or in lieu of other disciplinary action for any violation of this policy or any other duly promulgated rule applicable to the activity or activities in question. The period of such a suspension shall not extend beyond one calendar year from the time the suspension is imposed.

When out-of-school suspension is imposed the student may not attend school or extra-curricular activities and class work may be made-up for credit or partial credit at the discretion of the appropriate principal. Suspensions may be considered an excused or unexcused absences at the discretion of the appropriate principal. No high school credit will be given for any post-secondary course taken by a student any portion of which was taken during the period of an expulsion from school.

**ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY ON VIOLENT OR DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**  
**AND EXCESSIVE TRUANCY**

The primary objective for public schools is to educate students in a safe environment. This objective is undermined by violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior, and excessive truancy. In compliance with O.R.C. Section 3313.534 and in order to facilitate the learning process, the Board adopts this zero tolerance policy, which expressly prohibits all violent, disruptive, or other inappropriate behavior by District students, and excessive truancy. In addition, the Board has established strategies which range from prevention to intervention to help eliminate violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior, and excessive truancy.

Under this policy, students must refrain from any and all violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior, and excessive truancy. Students must comply with all school rules and regulations, which includes the District's student conduct policy and policy on student truancy. Likewise, students must follow the directives of all teachers, administrators, and other school personnel. This policy applies to students at the same times and places that the District's student conduct policy applies to students.

Students who fail to adhere to this policy will face appropriate disciplinary action, which may range from a warning to a suspension to an expulsion to permanent exclusion, depending on the particular circumstances including the severity of the offense, the student's prior record, the threat posed to the well-being and property of others, and any other circumstance that may be aggravating or extenuating in the specific case. The Board actively will cooperate in the prosecution of students who commit acts violating any laws of the State of Ohio or any of its political subdivisions. The Board, in cooperation with the District's attendance officer, will also affirmatively pursue students who are excessively truant. Students are expected to report any suspected violation of this policy to the school principal.

The District's student conduct policy lists some, but not all, of the types of conduct for which students may face disciplinary action under this policy.

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