

# DISCIPLINE

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The School Board recognizes the necessity for reasonable control and discipline over the conduct of students under its jurisdiction.

Principals shall have both the authority and the duty to take disciplinary action whenever the behavior of any student(s) materially interferes with or substantially disrupts the maintenance of a proper atmosphere for learning within the classroom or other parts of the school.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS

### DISCIPLINE

It should be noted that this special education discipline policy is based on current state regulations (Bulletin 1706) and will remain in effect until new state regulations have been approved by BESE. The approval of the new Bulletin 1706 is expected to occur in October 2008. Once this has been done, this current discipline policy will be revised to reflect the new state regulations.

For removals from current educational placement of one to ten days, students with disabilities and students with suspected disabilities may be removed in accordance with the discipline policies for non-disabled students.

In order to remove a student with disabilities or a student suspected of having disabilities for more than 10 consecutive days or for a period cumulating in 10 school days, the LEA (Tangipahoa Parish School System), parents, and relative members of the IEP team, as determined by the parents and the LEA, must determine if the student's behavior was a manifestation of the disability.

School personnel may order additional removals of not more than 10 cumulative days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct as long as the removals do not constitute a change of placement.

School personnel may remove a student with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative education setting (IAES) for the same amount of time a student without a disability would be subject to discipline, regardless of whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability, but for not more than 45 calendar days in the following cases: 1) The student carries a weapon to school or to a school function under the jurisdiction of the State or Tangipahoa Parish School System. 2) The student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function under the jurisdiction of the State or Tangipahoa Parish School System.

A State Hearing Officer, in an expedited due process hearing, may order the change of placement of a child with a disability for not more than 45 calendar days if the hearing officer determines that the Tangipahoa Parish School System has demonstrated that maintaining the current placement of the student is likely

to result in injury to the student or to others.

The parent of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decisions regarding placement in an interim alternative educational setting or the manifestation determination may request an expedited hearing and the state hearing officer may return the child the placement from which the child was removed if the hearing officer determines that the removal was in violation of the applicable law of statutes or that the child's behavior was a manifestation of the child's disability.

If the results of the manifestation determination review is that the behavior of the student with a disability was not a manifestation of the student's disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures, applicable to students without disabilities, may be applied to the student in the same manner in which they would be applied to students without disabilities except that Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) will be provided and educational services will not cease.

If the misconduct is a manifestation of the student's disability, Tangipahoa Parish School System personnel shall not remove the student from school unless the Tangipahoa Parish School System and the parent agree otherwise.

In-school suspensions in which a student's IEP is being implemented are not considered removals from a student's current educational setting. All other removals, whether to an alternative school or homebound, are considered changes in placement, regardless of whether the student's IEP is being implemented in the alternative setting.

Ref.LA. Regulations for Implementation of the Children with Exceptionalities Act

(R.S. 17:1941 et seq.) Title 28, Part XLIII. Bulletin 1706 Subpart A – Regulations for Students with Disabilities

## ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE PLAN

The Tangipahoa Parish School Board mandates that each school establishes a schoolwide Assertive Discipline Plan with specific stated goals.

The goal of a schoolwide Assertive Discipline Plan is to develop a systematic and consistent way in which to deal with discipline problems throughout the school. To accomplish this goal there must be a two-sided effort from the staff:

- Every teacher will develop and post a classroom plan, i.e. a set of rules, rewards, and consequences that are in effect at all times in his or her classroom. (Plan shall have prior approval of principal.)
- There must also be a schoolwide plan that governs student behavior in all of the common areas in the school.
- School rules must be posted in all common areas.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE LADDER

The School Board has implemented the Assertive Discipline Plan for the treatment of students who violate school rules. Before a student is referred to the administrator for a violation of classroom rules, five steps designated by the classroom teacher will be followed in order to correct the student's discipline problem.

### STEP I:

- The Assertive Discipline Policy will be reviewed with each student. The student will be directed to inform his/her parents. The school has the option of sending a copy of the Assertive Discipline Policy to each parent.
- Corporal Punishment or alternative program.

### STEP II:

- Contact parents by telephone or mail.
- Corporal punishment, alternative program or suspension for one (1) day.
- Parent conference – optional

### STEP III:

- Contact parent by telephone or mail.
- Corporal punishment, alternative program, or suspension for three (3) days.
- The principal may require a parent conference before the student can return to school. A student will be allowed to make up any work missed as a result of the parent's failure to attend the conference.

### STEP IV:

- Contact parent by telephone or mail.
- Suspension, five (5) days.
- Parents to accompany student back to school for conference with principal.

### STEP V:

- Contact parent by telephone or mail.
- Suspension, five (5) days.
- Principal or designee will schedule a conference prior to the student's return to school.

### STEP VI:

- Contact parent by telephone or mail.
- Suspended until a due process hearing for expulsion is held with the Superintendent's designee.
- A student may be recommended for expulsion at any time if the administrator feels the student's actions warrant such recommendation.
- Students committing the following offences may receive the corresponding disciplinary actions:

**OFFENSES****DISPOSITION****A LEVEL**

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|---|---------|
| 1. Assault  | Step VI |
| 2. Possession of a weapon with intent to use                        | Step VI |
| 3. Possession of a firearm  | Step VI |
| 4. Distribution, use, and possession of drugs and/or alcohol        | Step VI |
| 5. Inciting a riot  | Step VI |
| 6. Molesting students, immoral/indecent behavior, sexual harassment | Step VI |
| 7. Verbal abuse of any school system employee                       | Step VI |
| 8. Promoting gang membership and/or activities                      | Step VI |
| 9. Hazing   | Step VI |

**B LEVEL**

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|--|-------------|
| 1. Extortion                                     | Steps II-V  |
| 2. Verbal Abuse                                  | Steps II-V  |
| 3. Possession of a weapon (other than a firearm) | Steps II-VI |
| 4. Violation of Technology Acceptable Use Policy | Steps II-VI |

**C LEVEL**

Fighting – student provoking a fight - Refer to Zero Tolerance Policy.

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|----------------|------------|
| 1 on 1         | Steps II-V |
| 2 or more on 1 | Steps II-V |
| use of object  | Steps II-V |

**D LEVEL**

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|--|-------------|
| 1. Vandalism (to include restitution)              | Steps I-III |
| 2. Possessions or use of tobacco on school grounds | Steps II-IV |
| 3. Profane language                                | Steps I-III |
| 4. Stealing (to include restitution)               | Steps II-IV |
| 5. Possession of pornographic material             | Steps I-III |

**E LEVEL**

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|--|---------------|
| 1. Disrespect for authority  | Steps I-VI    |
| 2. Bullying, intimidation, threatening   | Steps II-VI   |
| 3. Disobedience  | Steps I-IV    |
| 4. Classroom disturbance   | Steps I-IV    |
| 5. Gambling  | Steps II-IV   |
| 6. Leaving Campus  | Steps II-IV   |
| 7. Cutting Class   | Steps I-II    |
| 8. Tardiness   | Steps I-IV    |
| 9. Truancy   | Steps II-IV   |
| 10. Respect Law  | Steps II, 1   |
| 11. Irresponsible use of technology including Violation of Acceptable Use Policy | Steps II - VI |

## ZERO TOLERANCE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

A top priority of the Tangipahoa Parish School System is to provide a physically and psychologically safe environment for students. Fighting is disruptive to the school climate and causes students to feel threatened. Studies have shown that the majority of students who bring weapons to school do so to defend themselves. Students who feel safe are less likely to bring weapons to school. Guns, knives, and other weapons are obviously hazardous to a safe learning environment and the possibility that such items will be brought to school must be significantly reduced. In 1997, because discipline records had reflected a significant increase in the number of student fights in recent years, the Tangipahoa Parish School Board Passed a Zero Tolerance for Violence Policy.

School administrators, law enforcement officials, representatives from the District Attorney's Office, Hammond City Court, and 21st Judicial District Court worked cooperatively to develop the present Zero Tolerance for Violence Prevention Program. This interagency developed program requires that students who are of the age to be in the seventh grade and above that choose to fight on campus, at extracurricular activities, on school buses and/or at school bus stops, shall be arrested.

**PROCEDURES**

When a fight takes place as determined by the principal (or designee), appropriate law enforcement officials will be called to come to the school.

Each participant in the fight will be arrested and taken into custody, unless it is established by the principal/designee, that one or more students were the sole aggressor(s) and the other student(s) involved acted only in self-defense.

Thereafter, attempts will immediately be made to contact the parents.

Each student arrested will be processed through the judicial system. Alternatively, they may be offered the opportunity to attend conflict resolution sessions.

Each student who chooses to fight will be assessed a fee of \$50 to defray the cost of the sessions.

Each of the student aggressors will be suspended a minimum of five days from school and must participate in two conflict resolution classes prior to returning to school. Three days will be unexcused absences and make-up work will not be given. However, work missed during the two days that a student attends conflict resolution training may be made-up.

Parents are required to attend and participate in the final session so that children may discuss the solution reached and possible referrals can be made to other sources.

If a student refuses to attend the conflict resolution sessions, he/she shall be referred to the Office of the District Attorney.

All students who choose to fight a second time shall be scheduled for an expulsion hearing in accordance with policy JD-R. In addition, a \$100 fee must be paid. The policy on absences will apply as per #6 above.

**ZERO TOLERANCE PROGRAM EXPANDED TO 5TH AND 6TH GRADES**

The success of the Zero Tolerance for Fighting Program for students in grades 7-12 prompted the school system to extend a modified version of the program to grades 5 and 6. Students in the 5th and 6th grades who choose to fight shall be suspended for a minimum of three (3) days. The student shall attend in-school suspension one day and conflict resolution classes for the other two days. Should a 5th or 6th grade student choose to fight a second time, he/she shall be assigned to in-school suspension for four days and conflict resolution class for one day. Unlike the program for students in grades 7-12, 5th and 6th grade students will not be arrested and removed from campus by a policeman, nor will they be required to pay the \$50 fine.