

EAST ISLIP SCHOOL DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STUDENTS 2017-2018

The Board of Education of the East Islip School District believes that all students are entitled to a successful educational experience. In order for this to occur, the school environment must be a positive, safe and healthy one, in which each member is treated with respect.

The school staff and community believe that the best learning takes place in a climate in which students experience success, caring, enjoyment, and the freedom to develop their potential. To accomplish this, all members must recognize that for a school community to be healthy, interactions between all members must be thoughtful, respectful and humane.

Since discipline is a learned behavior, it should be taught cooperatively in the home, school and community. Expectations should be developmentally appropriate. Increased responsibility and the ability to self discipline become the goals as the student matures.

The Board recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, and at school functions, to identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure the discipline, when necessary, be administered promptly, and fairly. To this end, the Board adopts this code of conduct.

The Board of Education believes that this philosophy will foster the development of happy, self-disciplined, self-reliant citizens with social consciences.

Unless otherwise indicated, this code applies to all students, school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending a school function.

At no time, is anyone permitted to jeopardize the safety and welfare of others.

STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All students are entitled to the following rights on an equal basis regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, religious practices, ethnic group, sexual orientation, sex, weight or disability:

1. To a quality education in a safe environment conducive to learning.
2. To guidance, understanding, and respect as a unique individual from all people.
3. To express themselves without infringing on the rights of others.
4. To learn in an environment free from interruption, harassment, bullying, discrimination, intimidation and fear.
5. To present their version of the relevant events to school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary consequence. This allows for fair treatment and due process in accordance with the regulations of the school district and the education laws of New York State.
6. To participate in extracurricular activities as long as they remain in "good standing" as defined by the school administration.
7. To guidance and constructive discipline to help them learn to develop responsibility, a concern for others, and good character.
8. To be consulted in the planning and implementation of their education.
9. To have positive adult role models.
10. To be informed of and have the freedom to exercise their rights as stated herein. This includes the ability to access school rules and, when necessary, receive an explanation of those rules from school personnel.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

All district students have the responsibility to:

1. Make the best use of the educational system to become a useful member of society.
2. Attend school every scheduled day unless they are legally excused.
3. Be in class on time and prepared to learn.
4. Be familiar with and abide by all district policies, rules and regulations.
5. Ask questions when they do not understand.
6. Contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and to show respect to other persons and to property.
7. React to direction given by teachers, administrators, and other school personnel in a respectful, positive manner.
8. Maintain behavior free from all forms of bullying, harassment or discrimination.
9. Learn to make socially acceptable choices to meet their individual needs.
10. Work to develop mechanisms to control their anger.
11. Exercise their rights in an age appropriate manner.
12. Seek help in solving problems that might lead to disciplinary consequences.
13. Accept responsibility for their actions.
14. Dress appropriately for school and school functions.
15. Conduct themselves as representatives of the district when participating in or attending school sponsored extracurricular events and to hold themselves to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. It is expected that all students conduct themselves in a manner that supports the intent of the Dignity for All Students Act, creating a safe and supportive school environment free of discrimination, bullying/cyberbullying and harassment.

The best discipline is self-imposed and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel have the responsibility and authority to use the necessary measures to maintain control within the classroom, the school building and at school functions on and off school property. Each teacher has the responsibility and authority to use the necessary measures to maintain control within the classroom, the school building, and on the school property.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on school property or engaged in a school function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the consequences for their conduct.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Running in hallways.
2. Making unreasonable noise.
3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
5. Engaging in any willful act that disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building, or his/her designee.
7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, cell phones, personal electronic devices, software, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.
8. Inappropriate use of materials that create a disruptive atmosphere, i.e. throwing of food, misuse of chemical or equipment, disorderly conduct in common areas, such as gymnasium, cafeteria, where large numbers of students congregate.

B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Failing to comply with reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators, or other school employees.
2. Demonstrating disrespect.
3. Directing vulgarity, abusive language or gestures to district personnel.
4. Cutting or leaving without permission.
5. Unexcused latenesses.
6. Skipping detention.

C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct include, but are not limited to failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators, or other school personnel. Inappropriate public sexual contact.

D. Engage in conduct that is violent while on school property or at a school function or school sponsored activity. Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee, attempting to do so, or threatening to do so.
2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, scratching and throwing objects) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property, attempting to do so, or threatening to do so.
3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatening to use any weapon.
6. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator or any other person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
7. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
8. Committing an act of graffiti, arson, and/or criminal mischief.

E. Engage in any conduct on school grounds or at school sponsored activities that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of themselves and/or others. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Lying to school personnel.
2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
3. Subjecting other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function, to danger, by recklessly engaging in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury.
4. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.
5. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
6. Harassment, or bullying, of any kind (sexual or racial for example), which includes a sufficiently severe action or persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group.

- which are intended to be, or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning or biased; or harassment that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, of such a severe nature that has or would have the effect of unreasonable and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental emotional and/or physical well-being; or reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety. Such conduct shall include, but not be limited to, threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) or sex.
7. Cyberbullying, which is harassment or bullying as defined above, where such harassment or bullying occurs through any form of electronic communication.
 8. Intimidation, which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm, or cause emotional distress.
 9. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliation with or maintaining membership in an organization, gang, club or team on school grounds or at a school sponsored function.
 10. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
 11. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
 12. Smoking, or publicly displaying, a cigarette, cigar, pipe, or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
 13. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or items disguised as illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalant marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."
 14. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over the counter drugs.
 15. Gambling.
 16. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
 17. Initiating a report warning of fire, bomb threat, or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
 18. Intimidating another person for the purpose of extorting money or property.
 19. Violation of an individual's civil rights.
 20. Sexual harassment.

F. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on school buses, to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving, defacing the bus, and fighting will not be tolerated.

G. Engage in prohibited gang conduct. Student participation in or affiliation with a gang will not be tolerated. Students who violate the rules of conduct about such activity may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school.

H. Engage in, on or off campus, misconduct that endangers or threatens the health and safety of students or staff within the school, or substantially disrupts the educational process. Examples of such misconduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Cyber bullying (i.e., inflicting willful and repeated harm through the use of electronic text.)
2. Threatening or harassing students or school personnel over the phone.
3. Using message boards to convey threats, derogatory comments or post pornographic pictures of students or school personnel.
4. Consumption of alcohol, marijuana and/or illegal controlled substances and thereafter entering upon the premises of the school district or participating in a school sponsored event under the influence of alcohol, marijuana and/or illegal controlled substances.

I. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: Plagiarism, Cheating, Copying, Altering Records, Assisting another student in any of the above action

STUDENT DRESS CODE

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. A student's dress and physical appearance shall be appropriate, safe, and not serve to disrupt and/or interfere with the educational process. Students shall:

1. Recognize that extremely brief garments and/or see-through garments are not allowed.
2. Ensure that underwear is covered with outer clothing.
3. Wear footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
4. Not wear hats/headgear except for a medical, religious purpose, or at a special predetermined, school approved event.
5. Not wear items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or deemed hazardous to the safety and well-being of students.
6. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal, inappropriate, or violent activities/associations including but not limited to gang colors, symbols and affiliations. Information on "gang apparel" can be obtained from the building principal.
7. Wear appropriate protective gear in classes or in activities (i.e. science, family and consumer science, technology, and physical education) where safety is a concern.

Each building principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year, and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year. Any student who fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to discipline up to and including out of school suspension.

CONSEQUENCES

Students who are found to have violated the district's code of conduct may be subject to the following consequences, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each consequence are authorized to impose the consequence, consistent with the student's right to due process.

1. Verbal warning/student conference - any member of staff and bus driver
2. Written warning - any member of district staff
3. Written/telephone notification to parent or guardian - appropriate staff
4. Removal from classroom - teachers, principal
5. Lunch detention - appropriate certified staff
6. Detention - appropriate staff
7. In-school suspension - principal
8. Parent Conference - appropriate staff
9. Suspension from field trips/loss of other privileges - principal, superintendent
10. Suspension from transportation - principal, superintendent
11. Suspension from athletic participation - coaches, principals, and superintendent
12. Suspension from social or extracurricular - activity advisor, principal, superintendent
13. Short term (five days or less) suspension from school - principal, superintendent, board
14. Exclusion from class - principals, superintendent
15. Long term (more than five days) suspension from school - superintendent, board
16. Permanent suspension from school - superintendent, board
17. Restitution - principal, superintendent (after appropriate legal action is taken).

Consequences may be assigned alone or in combination with any others on the list by the personnel authorized to impose the consequence. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the District in its administering of appropriate consequences for violations of the Code of Conduct.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

For purposes of this code, the following definitions apply:

- "Disruptive student" means an elementary or secondary student under 21 years of age who is substantially disruptive to the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.
- "Parent" means parent, guardian or person in parental relation to a student.
- "Certified staff" means all personnel officially certified in their area of assignment: teachers, nurses, guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, librarians, itinerants, and administrators.
- "School property" means in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of the school district, or in or on a school bus, as defined in Vehicle and Traffic Law 142.
- "School function" means any school sponsored extra-curricular event or activity, on or off school property.
- "Mental Health Teams" are building teams consisting of the principal, and/or his designee, psychologist, social worker, and counselor, if applicable.
- "Violent student" means a student under 21 years of age who:

1. Commits an act of violence upon a school employee, or attempts to do so.
2. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of violence upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at a school function, or attempts to do so.
3. Possesses, while on school property or at a school function, a weapon.
4. Displays, while on school property or at a school function, what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatens, while on school property or at a school function, to use a weapon or to commit an act of violence.
6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.
7. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys school district property.
8. "Weapon" means a firearm as defined in 18 USC 921 for purposes of the Gun-Free School Act. It also means any other gun, BB gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutters, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrumental or substance that can cause physical injury or death.

For a complete and comprehensive copy of the East Islip School District Code of Conduct and a list of all Dignity for All Students Act Coordinators, please visit the district website at www.eischools.org.