

PUBLIC CONDUCT on SCHOOL PROPERTY

A. General Statement and Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a minimum standard of conduct upon school district property, and during school sponsored events and activities that will provide the best possible educational climate for the students; encourage participation in the educational process by the general public; protect the investment of the public in both the educational process and the physical plant in which it is conducted; and honor and protect the rights of all individuals within the community.

While this policy applies generally to conduct by any and all persons on school property, **additional** policies, rules, regulations, or procedures will apply (1) as to certain defined groups (e.g., JIC regarding student conduct); (2) for visits during the school day (see Board policy KK); or (3) during other specific activities or times (e.g., KG regarding use of school facilities).

B. Definitions

As used in this policy:

1. "Authorized District Personnel" any person who is designated by the Superintendent, the Principal (as to grounds or activities withing her/his purview), the Athletic Director (as to athletic events), or any other person or persons so designated by either of them to administer the provisions of this policy relative to specific school property or a school sponsored or approved activity or function.
2. "School property" means any buildings, vehicles, property, land, or facilities used for school purposes or school-sponsored events or activities, whether public or private.

C. Prohibited Conduct

No person on school property or during any school sponsored or approved activity may:

1. Injure, threaten, bully, harass, or intimidate a student, staff member, sports official, coach, or any other person;
2. Engage in behaviors that are harassing or discriminatory in nature based on a person's actual or perceived age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, familial status, disability, religion, national origin race, or color (including those traits historically associated with race, color or religion, including but not limited to head coverings, hair texture, or protective hairstyles);
3. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school function or any activity sponsored or approved by the Board, the Superintendent, building Principal, Athletic Director, or their designees;
4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property;
5. Damage or deface School District property;
6. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products;

7. Consume, possess, distribute, or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs/controlled substances; (persons known or suspected to be under the influence of liquor or a controlled substance will not be permitted to enter the school building or grounds, and law enforcement may be contacted);
8. Use, or attempt to use, or threaten to use **any** device, instrument, material, or substance ("prohibited object) with the purpose to injure, threaten, intimidate, or coerce another person; for the purposes of this section, any reckless use of any prohibited object which places or may place another in danger of serious bodily injury is also prohibited;

NOTES: while students are prohibited from possessing firearms on school property under Board policy JICI and RSA 193:13), mere possession or displaying of a firearm by non-student adults shall not, in and of itself and without additional circumstances as described in this paragraph, constitute reckless conduct or a violation of this policy;

9. Enter upon any portion of school property at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and specifically authorized by the Board, the Superintendent, building Principal, Athletic Director, or their designees;
10. Operate (either upon or over school property) a drone or other unmanned aircraft
11. Violate any state law or regulation, or any duly adopted policy and/or regulation of the Board.
12. Violate any federal law with the exception of any such law that is pre-empted by New Hampshire state law (e.g., RSA 159-E pertaining to firearms, etc.);
13. Operate a motor vehicle in violation of any Authorized District Personnel directive or posted road signs.
14. Refuse to comply with or obey a directive of any Authorized District Personnel or posted rules or regulations.

D. Enforcement & Consequences

Any person who violates this policy or any other acceptable standard of behavior may be ordered to leave school grounds by Authorized Personnel, who may, also at her/his discretion, contact law enforcement. Students and employees who violate this policy shall be further subject to such consequences or interventions as provided under applicable Board policies or District or school administrative regulations.

Additionally, the Board authorizes the Superintendent or his/her designee to issue "no trespass" letters to any person whose conduct violates this policy. The Superintendent is further authorized, upon consultation with district counsel, to file any criminal complaint with respect to such violations.

E. Severability

If any provision of this policy or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the policy which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this policy are declared to be severable.

First Reading: 10/5/2022

Second Reading/Approval: 11/5/2022