

New Hanover Township School District

Code of Student Conduct (CSC)

Pursuant to New Hanover Township Board of Education policy number 5131:

The board believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of pupils. The board expects pupils to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other pupils, for personnel, for the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

As such, the board has determined core, local ethical values that it wishes to impart on all New Hanover Township School students. These core values include self-control, respect, responsibility, empathy, safety, and honesty.

Student Rights

All students have a constitutional right to a free and appropriate education, and therefore cannot be suspended or expelled without being afforded due process. In the case of a suspension of ten (10) days or less, a student is entitled to receive notice of the charges against him, an explanation of the evidence authorities have, and an opportunity to present his/her version. This presentation can be accomplished during an informal hearing at which students do not have the right to have a parent/legal counsel present nor may they cross exam or call witnesses.

For long-term suspensions or expulsion, a student is entitled to a formal hearing within 30 days of the first date of suspension. Prior to this hearing, the Board of Education must present the student's parents with a written notification of charges and description of the evidence used to reach their conclusion. Students may be represented by counsel, have a translator, and provide a defense presentation.

Consequences

The district will hold students accountable for their actions in a manner that is firm, fair, and respectful. Further, when applying consequences for improper behavior, district staff will consider age-specific parameters, developmental needs, and behavioral history. Staff will adhere to the guidelines below when disciplining students:

Elementary Consequences: When misbehaving in school or breaking classroom rules, students will face time-out, loss of privilege, warning, admonishment, apology, or replacement of broken items. When offenses are repeated or when a student is not learning from previous consequences, additional remediation may be necessary. These may include parent-teacher conference, referral to counselor/SAP Committee, detention, or development of a behavior plan. Students may also face out-of-school suspensions for offenses including, but not limited to: misuse of technology, trespassing, leaving school

grounds without permission, unacceptable language or gestures, threats, fighting, vandalism, HIB, drug/alcohol/weapons offense, disrespectful attitudes, and recurring misbehaviors.

Middle School Consequences: When disciplining middle school students, school personnel will follow the chart:

Violation	Possible Consequences
Fighting-Mutual physical conflict between two parties regardless of who initiated conflict	Suspension Police Notification Administrative Hearing
Assault-Any action that purposely, knowingly, or recklessly causes bodily injury	Suspension Police Notification Administrative Hearing
Truancy-Non-attendance of school without valid reason as defined by N.J.S.A. 18A:38-27	Verbal Warning Detention Suspension
Threats-Verbal or physical insinuation of doing harm	Detention Suspension Administrative Hearing
Disrespect-Behaviors that challenge the authority of adults	Verbal warning Detention Suspension
Insubordination-Disobeying the directives of adult staff members	Verbal Warning Detention Suspension
Misconduct-Behavior that disrupts the learning environment	Verbal Warning Detention Suspension
Profanity-Use of words, phrases, or gestures deemed blasphemous or obscene	Verbal Warning Detention Suspension
Theft-Unlawfully taking of another person's property	Suspension Administrative Hearing
Vandalism-Destruction or defacement of school or another's property	Detention Suspension
Weapon Possession-Possessing any instrument that is readily capable of lethal use of causing bodily harm.	Suspension and Administrative Hearing
Substance Abuse Offense-Possessing, consuming, or distributing any illegal drug.	Suspension and Administrative Hearing
Dress Code Violation-Non-adherence to Board of Education policy governing student dress	Verbal Warning Detention
Assault by Pupil Upon Staff Member	Suspension Pending Board of Education Hearing
HIB-Any infraction of Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights	Verbal Warning Detention Suspension

School administration reserves the right to deviate from the above chart when deemed appropriate or when addressing offenses not specifically enumerated.

Student Records

School personnel will follow the regulations as outlined in the New Hanover Township Board of Education 5125 policy when collecting, maintaining, disclosing, and/or allowing access to individual student records regarding discipline.

Student Attendance

In order for the Board of Education to fulfill its responsibility for providing a thorough and efficient education for each student, we require the complete cooperation of both parents/guardians and students. A pupil must attend 155 or more days of school in order to have successfully completed the instructional program requirements of the grade/course to which she is assigned. A full detail of all attendance policies and procedure are located in Board of Education policy 5113.

Memorandum of Agreement

New Hanover Township School and the New Jersey State Police have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which details how school and law enforcement officials address matters involving drugs and alcohol, weapons, child abuse, hazing, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and other matters that compromise school security.

Nondiscrimination

State and federal statutes prohibit school districts from discriminatory practices in educational opportunity against any person by reason of race, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, domestic partner status, familial status, liability for service in the Armed Forces of the United States, nationality, atypical hereditary cellular or blood traits, and/or pregnancy. Further state and federal protection is extended on account of disabilities, social or economic status, pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy-related disabilities, actual or perceived parenthood, or family status.

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