



R 5600 PUPIL DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT (M)

A. Purpose

The purpose of these regulations is to achieve the following purposes:

1. Foster the health, safety, social, and emotional well-being of pupils by leveraging appropriate consequences for misbehavior, but more importantly by using each disciplinary incident as a teaching tool;
2. Support the establishment and maintenance of civil, safe, secure, supportive, and disciplined school environments conducive to learning;
3. Promote achievement of high academic standards;
4. Prevent the occurrence of problem behaviors;
5. Establish parameters for the intervention and remediation of pupil problem behaviors at all stages of identification; and
6. Establish parameters for school responses to violations of the pupil discipline/code of conduct that take into account, at a minimum, the severity of the offenses, the developmental ages of the pupil offenders, and pupils' histories of inappropriate behaviors.

B. Rules of Conduct

1. All pupils are bound by law, policies of the Board of Education, and the administrative regulations of this school district.
2. In addition, pupils shall not:
 - a. Be insubordinate to teachers or other school staff members or disregard their instructions or demonstrate lack of respect for their authority;
 - b. Create disorder or disruptions on school premises;
 - c. Use, threaten, or incite the use of physical force against other pupils, staff members, or visitors to the school;
 - d. Steal, damage, or deface the property of other pupils, staff members, or the district;

- e. Engage in the sexual and/or other harassment of pupils or staff members;
- f. Violate codes of conduct adopted for organizations of pupils;
- g. Possess or use weapons or any implement intended to harm others;
- h. Use foul, abusive, derogatory, or demeaning language, including racial and ethnic remarks;
- i. Convey information about other pupils or staff members known to be false;
- j. Act so recklessly as to endanger the safety of others;
- k. Procure the property of others by threat or intimidation;
- l. Enter school premises or any specific portion of the premises without permission and without authority;
- m. Vandalize school property, real or personal;
- n. Create litter on school property;
- o. Be truant from school or class;
- p. Cheat or otherwise engage in academic dishonesty;
- q. Persistently refuse to complete homework and other assignments;
- r. Engage in illegal gambling;
- s. Smoke on school property;
- t. Falsify an excuse or any school document;
- u. Set fire to or cause a fire in any way on school premises;
- v. Possess or explode a firecracker or other explosive device on school premises;
- w. Sound or cause to be sounded a false alarm for fire, bomb, or other condition or circumstance hazardous to others;
- x. Possess, use, or distribute a substance in violation of Policy No. 5530;
- y. Join a secret society prohibited by law;
- z. Commit an act of harassment, intimidation, bullying or hazing; or
- aa. Engage in any other activity expressly prohibited by a school staff member in authority.

3. Pupils assigned to a school bus must obey all school rules, and
 - a. Show respect for the driver at all times;
 - b. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner;
 - c. Ride only the bus to which they have been assigned;
 - d. Be and remain seated while the bus is in motion;
 - e. Avoid reckless and boisterous activity at all times, including during waits at pickup points;
 - f. Talk in a reasonable tone of voice and avoid loud noises;
 - g. Extend no portion of the body or other object out a bus window;
 - h. Keep aisles clear at all times;
 - i. Refrain from bringing animals or bulky, unmanageable projects onto the school bus;
 - j. Refrain from smoking, eating, and drinking on the bus; and
 - k. Possess, use, or distribute no substance in violation of Policy No. 5530.
4. The Building Principal or designee has the right to impose a consequence on a pupil for conduct away from school grounds pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.6. This authority shall be exercised only when it is reasonably necessary for the pupil's physical or emotional safety, security, and well-being or for reasons relating to the safety, security, and well-being of other pupils, staff, or school grounds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2 or when the conduct which is the subject of the proposed consequence materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school. Consequences shall be handled in accordance with Policy and Regulation 5600, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1, and as appropriate, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7-2, 6A:16-7.3, or 6A:16-7.5.
5. Participation in co- and extra-curricular activities, including athletics, is considered a privilege where participants are considered ambassadors of the school and community. As such, participants agree to abide by the highest standards of sportsmanship and citizenship both on and off the field of play, stage, or classroom. Participants at Robbinsville High School agree to sign a Code of Conduct at the beginning of each season.

C. Disciplinary Measures

The following disciplinary measures may be applied as appropriate to the pupil's violation of school rules. The measures are sequential and are organized in order of severity.

1. Admonishment

A school staff member in authority may admonish the pupil for his/her unacceptable conduct and warn the pupil that additional misconduct may warrant a more severe penalty.

2. Temporary Removal from Classroom

- a. The classroom teacher may direct the pupil to report to the office of the administrator in charge of pupil discipline.
- b. The teacher will complete a form that indicates the pupil's name, homeroom, and the conduct that has caused the pupil's removal from the room.
- c. The administrator in charge of discipline will interview the pupil and determine which, if any, additional disciplinary steps are indicated.

3. Deprivation of Privileges

The pupil may be deprived of the privilege of:

- a. Moving freely about the school building,
- b. Participation in co-curricular or inter/intra-scholastic activities,
- c. Attendance at a school-related social or sports activity,
- d. Participation in a graduation ceremony (Denial of participation privileges for ceremonies at Pond Road Middle School or Robbinsville High School will be preceded by written registered parental notice of the forfeiture no later than April 30 of each year. Said notice will be followed by an administrative hearing to be scheduled no later than May 15 in order to consider the possibility of a remedial plan. After April 30, a student's non-cumulative conduct may warrant forfeiture of participation in graduation ceremonies. In such cases, parents will be notified of the forfeiture within 24 hours of the disciplinary incident and will be afforded an administrative hearing in order to consider a remedial plan.), or
- e. Transportation by school bus, or
- f. Any other privilege the Building Principal or designee determines may be appropriate and consistent with Policy 5600 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 et seq.

4. Detention

- a. The pupil may be required to report before or after the school day to detention for a period of supervised study.
- b. Transportation will be the responsibility of the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

- c. The pupil may be excused from detention only for an unavoidable commitment previously made; any such excused detention must be made up on another day.

5. Grading

A pupil who has cheated on a test or assignment, plagiarized material, falsified sources, refused to submit assignments, or otherwise indulged in academic dishonesty or negligence (paragraph B.2.p. and paragraph B.2.q.) may suffer a reduced grade by virtue of the disqualified work. In no other instance may a pupil's grade be lowered as a direct penalty for misconduct.

6. In-school Suspension

- a. The pupil may be removed from his/her regular classes and required to report to an in-school suspension program for supervised study.
- b. In-school suspension is a deprivation of the pupil's right to a thorough and efficient education and will not be imposed without the due process set forth in Policy and Regulation 5610.

7. Out of School Suspension

- a. The pupil may be denied the right to attend school for a period of time pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2, and 6A:16-7.3, and Policy 5610.
- b. Suspension from school is a deprivation of the pupil's right to a thorough and efficient education and will not be imposed without the due process set forth in Policy and Regulation 5610.

8. Expulsion

- a. The Board may expel a general education pupil from school, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5, and Policy 5620.
- b. Expulsion is an extremely serious disciplinary measure; it deprives the pupil of his/her right to a thorough and efficient education and will not be imposed without the due process set forth in Policies 5610 and 5620.

D. Remedial Measures

The following remedial measures may be taken to aid in correcting pupil conduct and to ensure that the pupil is properly placed in an appropriate educational environment and is not in need of special education and/or related services.

1. Restitution and Restoration

- a. The pupil may be required, to:
 - (1) Make restitution, in kind or cost or labor, for any loss he/she has caused;
 - or

(2) Restore to its former condition, by his/her own labor, any property the pupil has damaged or defaced.

b. A pupil who refuses to make restitution or restoration as directed may be disciplined by one or more of the measures included at paragraph C.

2. Counseling

a. The pupil may be required to consult with school guidance counselors to determine the causes of his/her misconduct and to assess the need for a change in educational placement.

b. The counselor will explain:

(1) Why the pupil's conduct is unacceptable to the school and damaging to the pupil,

(2) What the consequences of continued misconduct are likely to be, and

(3) Appropriate alternate behaviors.

c. The counselor may refer the pupil, as appropriate, for additional counseling, evaluation, intervention, treatment, or therapy. Referrals may be made to:

(1) The Child Study Team,

(2) Intervention and Referral Team,

(3) A public or private social agency, or

(4) A legal agency.

3. Parent Conferences

The pupil may be required to attend a meeting with his/her parent(s) and appropriate staff members to discuss the causes of the pupil's behavior, possible remediation, potential disciplinary measures, and alternative conduct.

4. Alternate Educational Program

The pupil may be assigned to an alternate educational program as recommended by the pupil's guidance counselor, classroom teacher, Child Study Team, and/or principal.

E. Consequences and Remedial Measures for Acts of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying

1. Consequences

Consequences for a pupil who commits an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be varied and graded according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the pupil, and the pupil's history of problem behaviors and performance.

- a. The consequences may include, but are not limited to, the examples listed below:
 - (1) Admonishment;
 - (2) Temporary removal from the classroom;
 - (3) Deprivation of privileges;
 - (4) Classroom or administrative detention;
 - (5) Referral to disciplinarian;
 - (6) In-school suspension during the school week or the weekend;
 - (7) After-school programs;
 - (8) Out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term);
 - (9) Reports to law enforcement or other legal action;
 - (10) Expulsion;
 - (11) Participating in school district-sponsored programs; and
 - (12) Referral to the I&RS team for review.

2. Remedial Measures

Remedial measures shall be designed to correct the problem behavior; prevent another occurrence of the problem; protect and provide support for the victim of the act; and take corrective action for documented systemic problems related to harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

F. Chart of Discipline

Below is a listing of pupil behaviors that are subject to pupil discipline including suspension or expulsion pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2. It is the Board of Education's expectation that disciplinary incidents be treated as learning opportunities where restitution and remediation are priority. As such, the chart below serves as a set of guidelines, but district administrators retain latitude to extend consequences and/or add remedial measures whenever appropriate. Each incident will be taken on a case by case basis and the administration reserves the right to make decisions beyond the scope of these guidelines. Any action which is deemed serious by administration and not specifically covered in these guidelines will be addressed as needed. For the purposes of maintaining a fair and consistent disciplinary process the following levels of offenses and consequences are intended to serve as a guideline for decision making.

1. Level I Offenses

It is the expectation of the Robbinsville Board of Education that the school district retain the decorum of a respectful and civil society. Each member of the community should have equal voice and be respected for his/her opinion. Level I offenses are those that erode the foundation of respect and civil discourse.

Level I offenses include, but may not be limited to, insubordination, disruption, code violation, language misuse, falsifications, littering, truancy, non-cooperation, cutting detention, failure to wear a seatbelt on the school bus, and disobedience.

Level I consequences for students in grades 4 – 8 may include:

- a. First Offense – Warning / Detention
- b. Second Offense – Detention / In School Suspension / Loss of Privileges
- c. Third Offense – Detention / Loss of Privileges – Out of School Suspension

Level I consequences for students in grades 9 – 12 may include:

- a. First Offense – Warning / Detention
- b. Second Offense – Teacher Detention / In School Suspension
- c. Third Offense – Extended Detention / Out of School Suspension

2. Level II Offenses

Level II offenses are in direct conflict with school and community values. Even though an individual may not be at immediate risk as a result of a Level II incident, the action compromises the integrity of the offender and the institution.

Level II offenses include, but may not be limited to, recklessness, extortion, wrongful entry, fighting, vandalism, gambling, smoking, forgery, secret membership, misuse of computer or computer network.

Level II consequences for students in grades 4 – 8 may include:

- a. First Offense – Detention / Out of School Suspension
- b. Second Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges
- c. Third Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges

Level II consequences for students in grades 9 – 12 may include:

- a. First Offense – Extended Detention / Out of School Suspension
- b. Second Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges
- c. Third Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges

3. Level III Offenses

While even the seemingly lowest Level I offense is problematic to the overall health of the school culture, Level III offenses are those whose direct result is harm to another. As such,

consequences for these offenses are most often coupled with restitution and remediation services. Repeat Level III offenders present a direct and significant threat to the overall well-being of the school community.

Level III offenses include, but may not be limited to, use of force, assault, theft, sexual harassment, weapon possession, arson, exploding devices, falsifying alarm, substance abuse, harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

Level III consequences for students in grades 4 – 8 may include:

- a. First Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges / Possible Police Contact
- b. Second Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges / Possible Police Contact
- c. Third Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges / Possible Police Contact

Level III consequences for students in grades 9 – 12 may include:

- a. First Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges / Possible Police Contact
- b. Second Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges / Possible Police Contact
- c. Third Offense – In School Suspension / Out of School Suspension / Possible Loss of Privileges / Possible Police Contact

G. Academic Integrity

Maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity is paramount in the Robbinsville School District. Cheating includes compromising one's integrity by stealing answers, falsifying one's own work, or sharing answers with another. Plagiarism, another form of cheating, includes presenting another person's intellectual property as one's own or failing to properly give credit for another person's work. Consequences for cheating include but are not limited to receiving a failing grade on the assignment in question and potentially failing a course. Additional consequences will range from detention to out of school suspension depending upon the severity of offense and number of incidents. As students progress through their years in the school, expectations for maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity will increase.

H. Disciplinary Procedures

1. The Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation 5600 shall be disseminated annually to all school staff, pupils, and parent(s). Principals will distribute these documents to all pupils on the first day of each school year and to transferring pupils on the first day of their enrollment in this district.
2. Teachers and administrators in charge of pupil discipline shall make every effort to administer these rules consistently and fairly.

3. The staff member who disciplines a pupil for conduct shall, however minimal the offense or the discipline,
 - a. Orally inform the pupil of the conduct for which he/she is being disciplined; and
 - b. Offer the pupil an opportunity to deny the charge or to present extenuating circumstances.
4. Where the discipline is greater than an admonishment, the pupil's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) will be notified of the offense and of the discipline imposed and will be offered an opportunity to confer with the administrator.
5. Where the offense is serious and the discipline greater than detention, every effort will be made to notify the parent(s) prior to the informal hearing conducted in accordance with paragraph F.3.
6. An in-school suspension, suspension from school, or expulsion will be conducted in strict accordance with law and Policies 5610 and 5620.
7. Violations of the rules regarding pupil conduct on school buses will be handled as per pupil handbook.

I. Pupils with Disabilities

For pupils with disabilities, subject to Individualized Education Programs in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Improvement Act, and accommodation plans under 29 U.S.C. §§ 794 and 705(20), pupil discipline and the code of conduct shall be implemented in accordance with the components of the applicable plans.

J. Pupil Rights

Pupils subject to the consequences of the Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation shall be informed of their rights, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1(c)3.i. through vii., that include:

1. Advance notice of behaviors that will result in suspensions and expulsions that have been identified under authority of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-2;
2. Education that supports pupils' development into productive citizens;
3. Attendance in safe and secure school environments;
4. Attendance at school irrespective of pupils' marriage, pregnancy, or parenthood;
5. Due process and appeal procedures, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:3-1.3 through 1.17, N.J.A.C. 6A:4 and, where applicable, N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.7 and 2.8;
6. Parent notification consistent with the policies and procedures established pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)3; and

7. Protections pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g and 34 CFR Part 99, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 U.S.C. § 1232h and 34 CFR Part 98, Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment; N.J.A.C. 6:3-6, Pupil Records; 45 CFR § 160, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; 20 U.S.C. § 6301, Title IV(A)IV § 4155 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as reauthorized under the No Child Left Behind Act; 42 CFR Part 2, Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records; N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-7.1, School-based drug and alcohol abuse counseling; information from participants; disclosure; N.J.A.C. 6A:16-3.2, Confidentiality of pupil alcohol and other drug information; N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19, Creation; Pupil Records: Maintenance and Retention, Security and Access; Regulations; Non-Liability; N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.9, Student Records; as well as other existing Federal and State laws pertaining to pupil protections.

K. Records

1. Instances of pupil discipline will be recorded in the pupil's file in strict compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.1 et seq. and Policy No. 8330.
2. When a pupil transfers to a public school district from another public school district, all information in the pupil's record related to disciplinary actions taken against the pupil by the school district and any information the school district has obtained pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-60, disclosure of juvenile information; penalties for disclosure, shall be provided to the receiving public school district, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:36-19(a), N.J.A.C. 6A:32-7.5(e)10.iv., and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.10.
 - a. The record shall be provided within two weeks of the date that the pupil enrolls in the receiving district.
 - b. Written consent of the parent or adult pupil shall not be required as a condition of the transfer of this information, however, written notice of the transfer shall be provided to the parent or the adult pupil.
 - c. When a pupil transfers to a private school, which includes all sectarian or nonsectarian nonprofit institutional day or residential schools that provide education for pupils placed by their parents and that are controlled by other than public authority, all pupil disciplinary records, with respect to suspensions or expulsions, shall be provided by the public school district of residence to the private school upon written request from the private school, in the same manner as such records would be provided by a public school district of residence to another public school district, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.10(b).
 - d. The Board shall not use a pupil's past offenses on record to discriminate against that pupil.
 - e. All pupil disciplinary records maintained in the district shall conform with the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.10(d).

L. Annual Report

The Superintendent of Schools shall report annually on the implementation of the Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy to the Board at a public meeting. The annual summary shall contain, at a minimum:

1. A numerical inventory of all violations of the pupil behavioral expectations in the Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation;
2. Associated school responses to the violations of the pupil behavioral expectations;
3. An explanation and evidence of the effectiveness of the Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation. The explanation and evidence, at a minimum, shall address:
 - a. The degree of effectiveness of the school district's activities in achieving the purposes of the Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation, pursuant to the purposes as outlined in A. above; and
 - b. The degree and effectiveness of the implementation of the contents of the Pupil Discipline/Code of Conduct Policy and Regulation.
4. Any proposed changes to the school district's current policies, procedures, programs or initiatives, based on the annual report.

Adopted: 30 August 2011