

CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018-19 CODE OF CONDUCT

Section V - PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations specific and clear for student conduct while on school property or at a school function. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that, and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others.

Although student conduct that is subject to discipline under this Code typically occurs on school property or at school functions, this is not always the case. Students may also be disciplined for conduct that occurs at other locations when their conduct may adversely affect the educative process or endanger the health, safety or morals of students within the education system.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school or removal from a program, when they engage in conduct that is disorderly, insubordinate, disruptive, violent, endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others, or engage in academic misconduct. Examples of prohibited student conduct include but are not limited to the following:

A. Disorderly, reckless or violent behavior, which may endanger the safety, morals, health or welfare of others by any act, including but not limited to:

- (1) Possessing, using, displaying, sharing or selling any weapon, explosive, firework, or other dangerous instrument or contraband, including any object that appears to be a weapon.
- (2) Fighting, physical assault, physical confrontation, or engaging in any violent behavior.
- (3) Threatening or attempting an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, scratching, etc.) upon another student, a teacher, an administrator, a District employee, or any other person on school property or present at a school function.
- (4) Communicating by any means, including oral, written or electronic (such as through the Internet, email, Social Media, or texting), where the content of such communication (a) can reasonably be interpreted as a threat to commit an act of violence on school property or at a school function; or (b) results in a material or substantial disruption to the educational environment.
- (5) Horseplay or similar inappropriate conduct not motivated by anger or malice, including but not limited to play fighting or pranks involving physical contact or the risk of physical injury.
- (6) Lying, deceiving or giving false information to school personnel.
- (7) Extorting (which means the use of coercion to obtain money, property or services from another person or entity), or stealing District property or the property of another student or any other person on school property or present at a school function.
- (8) Planning and/or implementation of any act that endangers the health, safety or welfare of another person, including but not limited to false alarms, bomb threats, or persuading or directing anyone else to commit an act that violates this Code of Conduct or endangers the health, safety or welfare of any person or group of people.
- (9) Engaging in harassing conduct, threats, intimidation, bullying (including cyber-bullying), or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical well-being, or which has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's mental or emotional well-being, or a student's educational performance or opportunities.
- (10) Threatening, harassing, or intimidating any person not covered by item (9) above, whether physical, verbal, or written, and including but not limited to cyber-bullying.
- (11) Discrimination, which includes the use of a person's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnic group, creed, religion, religious practice, gender or sex, sexual orientation, marital or veteran status, or disability, as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
- (12) Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals, including but not limited to students, faculty and school personnel, that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them. This can include posting or publishing video, audio recordings or pictures (written material, cell phones, Internet, YouTube, or any other form of Social Media, etc.).
- (13) Sexual harassment, which includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, taking, sending or receiving sexually explicit videos, pictures or auditory recordings and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature.
- (14) Engaging in lewd behavior, inappropriate touching, and/or indecent exposure.
- (15) Using abusive, objectionable, lewd, vulgar or obscene language or gestures.
- (16) Possessing, using, sharing or selling any objectionable, lewd or obscene material, including but not limited to sexting.
- (17) Possessing, consuming, sharing, selling, attempting to share or sell, distributing, or exchanging alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tobacco products, vaping pens, e-cigarettes or illegal and/or controlled substances, counterfeit and designer drugs, or paraphernalia for use of such drugs, or being under the influence of any such substances on school property or at a school function. "Illegal substances" include, but are not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, drug paraphernalia and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs."

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- (18) Inappropriately possessing, using, sharing or selling, attempting to share or sell, distributing, or exchanging any prescription or over-the-counter drugs.
- (19) Possessing, consuming, sharing, selling, attempting to share or sell, distributing, or exchanging "look-alike drugs"; or, possessing or consuming (without authorization), sharing, selling, attempting to share or sell, distributing, or exchanging other substances such as dietary supplements, weight loss pills, etc.
- (20) Selling, without authorization, food, candy or other items for personal profit or fundraising for outside organizations.
- (21) Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any school sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
- (22) Gang-like/gang related activity, including but not limited to displaying signs of gang affiliation, tagging of school or personal property, or engaging in gang-related behaviors that are observed to increase the level of conflict or violent behavior.
- (23) Intentionally damaging or destroying District property, the personal property of a student, teacher, volunteer, contractor, vendor, administrator, other District employee or any person lawfully on District property, or at a District function, including but not limited to graffiti or arson.
- (24) Gambling, including but not limited to card playing, play with poker chips, and/or dice.
- (25) Creating or instigating a hazardous or physically offensive condition, including but not limited to running in the hallways.
- (26) Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic, parking in an unauthorized area, or driving in an unsafe manner.
- (27) Insubordination, which includes but is not limited to being disrespectful toward any adult staff member, or failing to comply with the reasonable direction of a teacher, administrator or other District employee.
- (28) Engaging in any act that disrupts or threatens to disrupt the normal operation of the school community.

B. Academic/Attendance Issues* including but not limited to:

- (1) Unexcused absence from any class.
- (2) Tardiness, missing or leaving school or class without permission or excuse.
- (3) Abuse of student passes.
- (4) Skipping detention.
- (5) Violation of the Computer Technology Acceptable Use Policy.
- (6) Engaging in any form of academic misconduct, including but not limited to: cheating, copying, using unauthorized help sheets, illegally obtaining tests in advance, plagiarism, altering records, or forgery.
- (7) Helping or encouraging another student to engage in any of the actions listed in 1-6 above.

*Refer also to Policy #7110 Comprehensive Student Attendance

C. Violation of Public Order on School Property including but not limited to:

- (1) Possession of any items that are not needed for instructional or medical purposes. Inappropriate use of any electronic device that is prohibited during the school day and all after-school detention periods. Thus, cell phones and any electronic devices not specified in the student's educational program are subject to confiscation by an administrator or staff member during the school day or during an after-school detention period. In the event of confiscation, it may be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to pick up the item from the administrator. Any student who repeatedly violates this rule will be disciplined for insubordination.
- (2) Carrying or the use of backpacks, tote bags, or any similar bag with or without wheels, during the school day. These items may be carried to and from school but must be stored in the student's designated locker during the school day, unless deemed appropriate by building administrator.
- (3) Loitering - Students are expected to leave the building at dismissal time unless supervised by teacher, coach or administrator.
- (4) Trespassing - Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from a building administrator in charge of the building that the student does not regularly attend.
- (5) Misconduct on the school bus.
- (6) Misuse of automobile on school property.