

The Northwest Local School District Code of Conduct

(Code of Regulations for Conduct of Pupils)

(Zero Tolerance)

The District recognizes its responsibility to provide all students with an environment conducive to the development of their maximum learning potential. The Code of Regulations for Conduct of Pupils supports this endeavor. This Code of Regulations is adopted by the Board pursuant to State law. The law requires that students are provided with a written notice of intent to suspend prior to being suspended. State law also requires that students and parents are provided with a written notice of intent to expel.

The written notice of intent to suspend shall be given to the student at an informal hearing. The notice of intent to expel shall be sent to the student and the parents and the students and parents will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing prior to a decision to expel.

A student or the parents may appeal any decision of the District administration to suspend a student from school to the Superintendent/designee. A student or the parents may appeal an expulsion from school to the Board/designee. A student or parent must request an appeal in writing within 10 days after the discipline measure takes effect. The student and parents may be represented in all appeal hearings. Pursuant to State law, a student or parents may further appeal an expulsion or suspension to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas.

It is the policy of the Board that students shall not be permitted to return to school pending any appeal process with the administration or the court. The District will make every effort to promptly hear all appeals to minimize a student's absence from school. Should the Board, the Superintendent, or their designees reverse or modify a discipline decision and permit a student to return to school, such student shall be permitted ample time to make up all assignments and work missed as a result of his/her absence.

Any student engaging in the following types of conduct either specifically or generally like the kinds of conduct listed below is subject to suspension, expulsion, emergency removal or permanent exclusion from curricular or extracurricular activities pursuant to State law. This Code of Regulations applies while a student is in the custody or control of the school, on school grounds or closely proximate thereto, while at a school-sponsored function or activity or on school-owned or provided transportation vehicles. In addition, the Code of Regulations governs a student's conduct at all times, on or off school property, unless specifically limited to school property as stated in a regulation, when such student conduct is reasonably related to the health and safety of other students and/or school employees, or such conduct would unreasonably interrupt the educational processes of the District

The NWLSD Progressive Discipline Code is divided into four levels. Each level represents progressively more serious misbehavior and consequences. The level of discipline shall be based on the severity of the misbehavior and the number of infractions involved with each referral.

The Administration reserves the right to skip levels of discipline depending upon the violation.

The types of conduct prohibited by the Northwest Local School District Code of Regulations are as follows:

Level I

- 101 Misbehavior which disrupts or interferes with any school activity.
- 102 Disrespect to a student.
- 103 Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities. (Including gum/food/drinks)
- 104 Tardy to Class
- 105 Failure to abide by reasonable dress and appearance codes as established by administration and the Board of Education. This includes the prohibition of all clothing, jewelry, hairstyle and hair color, signs, etc. which at the discretion of the administration is reasonably related to or represents gang or gang-like activity or is a disruption or presents a genuine likelihood of disruption to the educational process. Refer to Board Policy JFCA/JFCB for Dress Code – Student handbooks will have the full dress code policy spelled out tailored to the specific schools.
- 106 Failure to abide by rules and regulations set forth by administration for student parking.
- 107 Use of pagers, beepers, I-pods, MP3 players, or other forms of electronic communication devices while on school property during school hours without express permission from the District Offices are prohibited. Possession of cell phones, mobile phones, wireless phones are permitted to be carried onto school property, but are not to be visible or operated during school hours. Students who bring any electronic devices to school do so at their own risk. The District will not be responsible for theft, damage or loss of these devices. Audiotaping, videotaping, filming or photographing of any student or staff member without the explicit knowledge and permission of the student, staff member and the school administration is expressly prohibited.

Level II

- 201 Disrespect to a teacher or other school authority.
- 202 Disrespect to a student.
- 203 Disregard of reasonable directions or commands by school authorities.
- 204 Any disruption or interference with school activities
- 205 Cursing – use of indecent language in oral or written form.
- 206 Use of obscene gestures.

- 207 Forgery of school or school-related documents.
- 208 Cheating or plagiarizing.
- 209 Distribution of pamphlets, leaflets, buttons, insignia, etc., without the permission of the proper school authorities.
- 210 Placing of signs and slogans on school property or at school events without the permission of the proper authorities.
- 211 Truancy.
- 212 Tardy to School
- 213 Skipping Detention
- 214 Skipping class.
- 215 Leaving school property without permission of proper school authority
- 216 Disobedience of driving regulations.
- 217 Presence in areas during school hours or outside school hours where a student has no legitimate business without permission of a school administrator or a teacher.
- 218 Leaving school during school hours without permission of the proper school authority.
- 219 Skipping detention.
- 220 Refusing to take detention or other properly administered discipline.
- 221 Possession of a laser pointer without the permission of the proper school authorities.

Level III

- 301 Willfully aiding another person to violate school regulations.
- 302 Failure to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where these actions or plans of another person, if carried out, could or did result in harm to another person or persons or damage property, when the student has information about such actions or plans.
- 303 Misuse of chemical sprays.
- 304 Smoking, using, or possessing any substance containing tobacco, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, rolling papers, a clove cigarette, e-cigarettes, and chewing tobacco, or tobacco paraphernalia such as matches or lighters or use of tobacco in any other form. As provided in 3313.751, Ohio Revised Code, it shall be a violation of this rule to use or possess tobacco in any form while on school premises or at any school activity regardless of time or location.
- 305 Distributing any substance containing tobacco, including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, a pipe, rolling papers, a clove cigarette, e-cigarettes, and chewing tobacco, tobacco paraphernalia such as matches or lighters or use of tobacco in any other form. As provided in 3313.751, Ohio Revised Code, it shall be a violation of this rule to use or possess tobacco in any form while on school premises or at any school activity regardless of time or location.
- 306 Fighting.
- 307 Hazing, threatening, harassment, intimidation or bullying of students based upon personal attributes or beliefs on/off school grounds, or engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group. For purposes of this policy, the term "harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act toward a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior: (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student.
- 308 Displaying excessive affection, inappropriate touching or other inappropriate behavior.
- 309 Falsifying of information given to school authorities in the legitimate pursuit of their jobs.
- 310 Possession of obscene, pornographic or libelous material.
- 311 Damage or destruction of school property on or off of school premises.
- 312 Damage or destruction of private property.
- 313 Demonstrations by individuals or groups causing disruption to the school program.
- 314 Gambling
- 315 Theft or possession of stolen goods.
- 316 Inappropriate use of computers and other technologies. Inappropriate use includes: vandalism, theft, or misuse of the hardware, plagiarism, unauthorized access to files not belonging to the student, tampering with security software or network privileges; logging onto the network with a fraudulent ID or password; using the facilities without proper supervision, installation of software on a computer or network, or unauthorized use, copying, or downloading of programs, files and/or pictures. Violations may result in revocation of access privileges, suspension, expulsion, other school disciplinary actions and/or appropriate legal action.
- 317 Any other activity by a student which the student knows or should know will disrupt the academic process or a curricular or extracurricular activity while on school premises or while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location.

Level IV

- 401 Possession, conveyance or use of a firearm. Firearms are identified in Section 921 of Title 18, United States Code. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 and 3313.661 violations of the Code of Conduct involving firearms are subject to expulsion from school for one year.)
- 402 Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use a weapon other than a firearm. The term "weapon" shall have the following meanings:
 - (a) Any instrument, device or object which is designed or is specially adapted for use as a weapon, or which is possessed, carried or used as a weapon. Examples of "weapons" shall include, but are not limited to: firearms, explosive devices, incendiary devices, ordnances, ammunition, knives, grenades, brass knuckles, sling shots, cross bows, arrows, blowguns, etc.
 - (b) The possession or use of objects which may render physical harm to another if improperly used, including, but not limited to: axes, hatchets, hammers, saws, chains, ice picks, screwdrivers and knives. An exception to this rule shall include the proper use of such objects while under the direct supervision and control of a duly authorized representative of the Northwest Local School District.

- “Knives,” as defined in Northwest Board of Education policy JF-C-A-A include, but are not limited to, any instrument that possesses a pointed or sharp-edged blade of metal or other rigid material that is designed for or can be used for cutting, slicing, piercing, or stabbing. This definition shall include, but is not limited to straight razors, utility knives, box cutters, ice picks, pocket knives, switchblades, and buck knives. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 and 3313.661, violations of the Code of Conduct involving knives are subject to expulsion from school for one year.)
- 403 Sale/distribution of weapons. See term “weapon” as defined in Code 402.
- 404 Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like a firearm.
- 405 Convey, attempt to convey, possess or use any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any other type of weapon.
- 406 Sale/distribution of any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like a firearm.
- 407 Sale/distribution of any instrument, device or object which is designed to look like any other type of weapon.
- 408 Buying, using, possessing, or being under the influence of any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, marijuana, etc.); or buying, selling, using, possessing, or being under the influence of any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that you think is a controlled substance), or possessing drug paraphernalia.
- 409 Selling or distributing any controlled substance (drugs, narcotics, marijuana, etc.) or inhalant; or buying, selling, any counterfeit controlled substance (any substance that is made to look like a controlled substance, or is represented to be a controlled substance, or that you think is a controlled substance).
- 410 Buying, selling, transferring or using any drug, alcohol, medication, inhalant, paraphernalia or other substance which can be taken internally where the student or students involved cannot show a legitimate health or other reason for the use of such substances.
- 411 Possessing, using, or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind.
- 412 Sale or distribution of any alcoholic beverage or paraphernalia or intoxicant of any kind.
- 413 Possession and/or discharge of any explosive substance or incendiary device.
- 414 Assault on school employee, student or other person.
- 415 Engaging in sexual acts
- 416 Indecent exposure.
- 417 The taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, emailing or sexting, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and lifetime inclusion on sexual offender registries.
- 418 Violation of the district’s sexual harassment policy JF-B- B.
- 419 Hazing, threatening or harassment of school personnel based upon personal attributes or beliefs on or off school grounds, or engaging in activities that may cause fear or panic in an individual or group.
- 420 Turning in false fire, tornado, bomb, or disaster alarms. (As provided in Ohio Revised Code 3313.66 (A) (5), a student may be expelled for a period of up to one year for making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the same time of the threat. The period of expulsion shall extend as necessary into the next school year.)
- 421 Extortion of a student or school personnel.
- 422 Arson or other improper use of fire.
- 423 Theft or possession of stolen school property or school employee possessions
- 424 Any type of prohibited activity listed herein engaged in by a student on school premises, on a school bus, or while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location, shall be reason for expulsion, suspension or removal from school.
- 425 Commission by a student of any crime or infraction in violation of the Criminal Code, Traffic Code or Juvenile Code of the State of Ohio or, when applicable, of the State in which the crime or infraction was committed. This provision shall apply to any student while in the control or custody of the school district regardless of whether the act occurred on or off of school premises, or at a school-related activity regardless of location.

The superintendent may apply any part or all of the suspension or expulsion to the following school year if there are fewer days remaining in the school year than were imposed in the suspension or expulsion.