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Monitoring: Review: Annually, in March	Descriptor Term: Code of Conduct	Descriptor Code: 6.300	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 The Board delegates to the Director of Schools the responsibility of developing specific codes of
2 conduct which are appropriate for each level of school. Codes of conduct for students in pre-
3 kindergarten ~~or kindergarten~~ shall utilize alternative disciplinary practices such as **CSEFEL**.
4 In these grades, exclusionary discipline shall only be used as a measure of last resort. The development
5 of each code shall involve principals and faculty members of each level and shall be consistent with
6 the relevant policies as adopted by the Board.¹

7 The following levels of misbehavior and disciplinary procedures and options are standards designed to
8 protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties and to
9 maintain a safe learning environment where orderly learning is possible and encouraged.² These
10 misbehaviors apply to student conduct on school buses, on school property, and while students are on
11 school-sponsored outings.

12 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL I**

13 This level includes minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom
14 procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school but which can usually be handled by
15 an individual staff member.

16 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 17 • Classroom disturbances
- 18 • Classroom tardiness
- 19 • Cheating and lying
- 20 • Abusive language
- 21 • Failure to do assignments or carry out directions
- 22 • Wearing, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day,
23 clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent manner that disrupts the
24 learning environment³
- 25 • Victimization of any student (Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious), Bullying,
26 Cyber-bullying, and/or Hazing)

27 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 28 • The staff member intervenes immediately.
- 29 • The staff member determines what offense was committed and its severity.
- 30 • The staff member determines who committed the offense and if he/she understands the
31 nature of the offense.
- 32 • The staff member employs appropriate disciplinary options.

- 1 • The record of the offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the staff
2 member.

3 *Disciplinary Options*

- 4 • Verbal reprimand
5 • Special assignment
6 • Restricting activities
7 • Counseling
8 • Withdrawal of privileges
9 • Issuance of demerits
10 • Strict supervised study
11 • Detention
12 • Corporal punishment
13 • In-school suspension

14 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL II**

15 This level includes misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of
16 the school. These misbehaviors do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but
17 have educational consequences serious enough to require corrective action on the part of
18 administrative personnel.

19 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 20 • Continuation of unmodified Level I behaviors
21 • Using forged notes or excuses
22 • Disruptive classroom behavior

23 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 24 • The student is referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
25 • The principal meets with the student and the staff member.
26 • The principal hears the accusation made by the staff member and allows the student the
27 opportunity to explain his/her conduct.
28 • The principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies the staff member of the
29 action.
30 • The record of offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the principal.

31 *Disciplinary Options*

- 32 • Teacher/schedule change
33 • Peer counseling
34 • Referral to outside agency
35 • In-school suspension
36 • Transfer

- 1 • Detention
- 2 • Suspension from school-sponsored activities or from riding school bus
- 3 • Out-of-school suspension

4 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL III**

5 This level includes acts directly against persons or property but whose consequences do not seriously
6 endanger the health or safety of others in the school.

7 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 8 • Continuation of unmodified Level I and II behaviors
- 9 • Fighting
- 10 • Vandalism (minor)
- 11 • Use, possession, sale, distribution, and/or being under the influence of tobacco, drugs,
12 drug paraphernalia, and/or alcohol
- 13 • Stealing
- 14 • Threats to others
- 15 • Victimization of any student (Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious), Bullying,
16 Cyber-bullying, and/or Hazing)

17 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 18 • The student is referred to the principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
- 19 • The principal meets with the student and the staff member.
- 20 • The principal hears the accusation and allows the student the opportunity to explain
21 his/her conduct.
- 22 • The principal takes appropriate disciplinary action.
- 23 • The principal may refer the incident to the Director of Schools and make
24 recommendations for consequences.
- 25 • The record of offense and disciplinary action shall be maintained by the principal.

26 *Disciplinary Options*

- 27 • In-school suspension
- 28 • Detention
- 29 • Restitution from loss, damage, or stolen property
- 30 • Out-of-school suspension
- 31 • Social adjustment classes
- 32 • Transfer

33 **MISBEHAVIORS: LEVEL IV**

34 This level of misbehavior includes acts which result in violence to another's person or property or
35 which pose a threat to the safety of others in the school. These acts are so serious that they usually

1 require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school,
2 the intervention of law enforcement authorities, and/or action by the Board.

3 If a student's action poses a threat to the safety of others in the school, a teacher, principal, school
4 employee, or school bus driver may use reasonable force when necessary to prevent bodily harm or
5 death to another person.⁴

6 *Examples (not an exclusive listing)*

- 7 • Continuation of unmodified Level I, II, and III behaviors
- 8 • Death threat
- 9 • Extortion
- 10 • Bomb threat
- 11 • Possession/use/transfer of dangerous weapons
- 12 • Assault that results in bodily injury upon any teacher, principal, administrator, any other
13 employee of the school, or a school resource officer*
- 14 • Aggravated assault*
- 15 • Vandalism
- 16 • Theft/possession/sale of stolen property
- 17 • Arson
- 18 • Possession of unauthorized substances (i.e. any controlled substance, controlled
19 substance analogue, or legend drug)*
- 20 • Use/transfer of unauthorized substances
- 21 • Victimization of any student (Harassment (Sexual, Racial, Ethnic, Religious), Bullying,
22 Cyber-bullying, and/or Hazing)
- 23 • Electronic threat to cause bodily injury or death to another student or school employee

24 *Disciplinary Procedures*

- 25 • The principal confers with appropriate staff members and with the student.
- 26 • The principal hears the accusations and allows the student the opportunity to explain
27 his/her conduct.
- 28 • The parent(s)/guardian(s) are notified.
- 29 • Law enforcement officials are contacted.
- 30 • The incident is reported, and recommendations are made to the Director of Schools.
- 31 • If the student's placement is to be changed, adequate notice of the charges shall be
32 given to the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) and his/her right to appear at a
33 hearing.

34 *Disciplinary Options*

- 35 • Other hearing authority or Board action which results in appropriate placement

36 * Designates zero tolerance offenses.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-4005
2. TCA 49-6-4002 to 4005; 20 USCA § 7114, 7118
3. TCA 49-6-4009
4. TCA 49-6-4008

Cross References

Traffic and Parking Controls 3.403
Procedural Due Process 6.302
Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation 6.304
Bus Safety and Conduct 6.308
Zero Tolerance Offenses 6.309
Dress Code 6.310
Detention 6.315
Suspension 6.316
Safe Relocation of Students 6.4081