

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following is a summary of the Unadilla Valley School District Code of Conduct adopted by the Board of Education on June 11, 2001. Copies of the entire Code of Conduct are available to district residents in each building's main office.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails shall:

1. Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process. Some examples are: sunglasses, chains, walkmans, other radios, skateboards, roller blades, skates, cellular phones or beepers.
2. Recognize that extremely brief garments such as tube tops, net tops, halter-tops, midriffs, short-shorts, plunging necklines (front and/or back) and see-through garments could be deemed inappropriate.
3. Ensure that underwear is completely covered with outer clothing.
4. Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
5. No headgear will be worn in the building during school hours, except for medical or religious purposes.
6. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, and libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
7. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. An attempt will be made to contact the parents by telephone. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension.

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

- A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Running in hallways.
 2. Making unreasonable noise.
 3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, or abusive.
 4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

5. Engaging in any willful act, which disrupts the normal operation of the school community.
 6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any school building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
 7. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; or any other violation of the district's acceptable use policy.
- B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct includes, but is not limited to:
1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other school employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
 2. Lateness for, missing or leaving school without permission.
 3. Skipping detention.
- C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct includes, but is not limited to:
1. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators and other school personnel in charge of students.
- D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct includes, but is not limited to:
1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other school employee or attempting to do so.
 2. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person lawfully on school property or attempting to do so.
 3. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on school property or at a school function.
 4. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
 5. Threatening to use any weapon.
 6. Damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other district employee or any person lawfully on school property, including graffiti or arson.
 7. Damaging or destroying school district property.
- E. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct includes, but is not limited to:
1. Lying to school personnel.
 2. Stealing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.
 3. Defamation, which includes making false or unprivileged statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.

4. Discrimination, which includes the use of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
 5. Harassment, which includes an action or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.
 6. Intimidation (examples might be bullying), which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in fear of bodily harm.
 7. 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.
 8. Selling, using or possessing obscene material.
 9. Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing or swearing.
 10. Smoking a cigarette, cigar, pipe or using chewing or smokeless tobacco.
 11. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. "Illegal substances" includes, but is not limited to, inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as "designer drugs".
 12. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs.
 13. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.
 14. Initiating a report warning of fire or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging of a fire extinguisher.
- F. Engage in conduct which would be considered "bullying." "Bullying" among children is defined, in general, as: "a variety of negative acts carried out repeatedly over time. It involves a real or perceived imbalance of power, with a more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful." Bullying can take three forms:
1. Physical (including, but not limited to, hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, taking personal belongings);
 2. Verbal (including, but not limited to, taunting, malicious teasing, name calling, making threats); and
 3. Psychological (including, but not limited to, spreading rumors; manipulating social relationships; or engaging in social exclusion, extortion, or intimidation).

Bullying may also occur as various forms of harassment and/or hazing of students by other students (including "pledging" and/or a student's initiation into or affiliation with a school or student related organization or team).

The District also prohibits “Internet bullying” (also referred to as “cyber-bullying”) including the use of instant messaging, e-mail, web sites, chat rooms, and text messaging when such use interferes with the operation of the school; or infringes upon the general health, safety and welfare of District students or employees.

However, it is important to note that a single negative act as enumerated above may also constitute “bullying” (if not more serious misconduct) based upon the particular circumstances such as the seriousness of the act and/or the intent of the actor.

Any student who believes that he/she is being subjected to bullying behavior, as well as any other person who has knowledge of or witnesses any possible occurrence of bullying, shall report the bullying to any staff member or the building principal. The staff member/building principal to whom the report is made (or the staff member/building principal who witnesses bullying behavior) shall investigate the complaint and take appropriate action to include, as necessary, referral to the next level of supervisory authority and/or other official designated by the District to investigate allegations of bullying. Investigation of allegations of bullying shall follow the procedures utilized for complaints of harassment within the School District. Allegations of bullying shall be promptly investigated and will be treated as confidential and private to the extent possible within legal constraints.

The Board prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed against complaints, victims, witnesses, and/or any other individuals who participate in the investigation of allegations of bullying.

Follow-up inquiries and/or appropriate monitoring of the alleged bully and victim shall be made to ensure that bullying behavior has not resumed and that all those involved in the investigation of allegations of bullying have not suffered retaliation.

- G. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.
- H. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include, but not limited to:
 - 1. Plagiarism.
 - 2. Cheating.
 - 3. Copying.
 - 4. Altering records.
 - 5. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

PENALTIES

Students who are found to have violated the district's Code of Conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

1. Oral warning-any member of the district staff
2. Written warning-bus drivers, hall and lunch monitors, coaches, guidance counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent
3. Written notification to parent-bus driver, hall and lunch monitors, coaches, guidance counselors, teachers, principal, superintendent
4. Detention-teachers, principal, superintendent
5. Suspension from transportation-director of transportation, principal, superintendent
6. Suspension from athletic participation-coaches, principal, athletic director, and superintendent
7. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities-activity director, principal, superintendent
8. Suspension of other privileges-principal, superintendent
9. In-school suspension-principal, superintendent
10. Removal from classroom by teacher-teachers, principal
11. Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school – principal, superintendent, Board of Education
12. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school – principal, superintendent, Board of Education
13. Permanent suspension from school – superintendent, Board of Education

PROCEDURES

The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a penalty is imposed depends on the penalty being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the penalty imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the penalty must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the school personnel imposing the disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

CONDUCT

Respect for self, fellow students, faculty, staff and school property is the guide for satisfactory school conduct. Specifically:

1. Directions or requests of teachers, educational support personnel, secretaries, custodians, cafeteria staff and bus drivers are to be complied with promptly and courteously.
2. Running, "horseplay", loud and boisterous conduct will not be allowed in the school or on the buses.
3. Physical displays of affection are inappropriate in school, as in places where people work, shop or carry on any activity that involves public interaction.

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

The Board of Education believes it necessary that students be made aware of the behavior that is expected as outlined in district policy on school conduct and discipline. They shall also be given an opportunity to be heard on complaints and grievances they have.

A student filing a complaint or grievance alleging that there is an action affecting them which is prohibited by Title IX and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act shall be provided with information regarding the prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint or grievance. Furthermore, a student shall have the right to present complaints and grievances in accordance with the procedure free from coercion, interference, restraint, discrimination or reprisal.