

A positive school climate requires students to: follow school rules; accept guidance from school staff; respect themselves and others; and be an active citizen. The Board of Education has zero tolerance of violent, disruptive, or inappropriate behavior by its students. Student conduct shall be governed by the rules and provisions of the [Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code]. This policy will be reviewed periodically.

It is the responsibility of students, teachers and administrators to maintain a school environment that:

- A. Encourages all students to be actively engaged in their learning;
- B. Has consequences that are fair and developmentally appropriate;
- C. Relies on preventive and supportive interventions to support positive behavior and academic outcomes; and
- D. Fairly enforces the [Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code].

All students and families are provided a copy of the [Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code], which contains the rules and regulations that each student is expected to adhere to while in school or participating in any school-related activity regardless of its location. The district has developmentally and age-appropriate discipline strategies ranging from preventative approaches to supportive interventions to address student misbehavior, including excessive absences. Students who do not follow school rules on school property and/or at school-related events will be disciplined according to the terms set-forth in the [District's/Board's] approved [Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code]. The [Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code] provides students and families with examples of the type of behaviors would subject a student to disciplinary action ranging from suspension or expulsion to other less severe forms. Suspension and expulsion will only be used once other options have been exhausted unless the student's behavior poses a threat to the safety of themselves or others.

A student may be subject to school disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion for harassment, vandalism, physical abuse, or other harmful or disruptive behavior toward school personnel or school personnel's property during non-school hours.

If a student's suspension is longer than the school year, the student will not be required to complete the suspension at the beginning of the next school year. However, the student may be required to complete community service or an alternative strategy for engagement per the Superintendent to be completed during the summer.

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the [Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code] even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the [District/Board] but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the [District/Board], or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a [Board/District] official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.

Regular school attendance is an important ingredient in students' academic success. Excessive absences interfere with students' progress in mastering knowledge and skills necessary to graduate from high school prepared for higher education and the workforce. To support academic success for all students, the District will partner with students and their families to

---This template is a general, high level model policy. Local School Boards/Districts should consult with legal counsel about the proper use of this model policy prior to its adoption.---

identify and reduce barriers to regular school attendance. The District will utilize a continuum of strategies to reduce student absences including but not limited to:

- Notify the parent or guardian of a student's absence;
- Develop and implement an absence intervention plan on a case by case basis, which may include supportive services for students and families;
- Counseling;
- Parent education and parenting programs;
- Mediation;
- Intervention programs available through juvenile authorities; or
- Referral for truancy if applicable.

Ohio law requires that if a student is absent with or without legitimate excuse from school thirty-eight or more hours in one school month, or sixty-five or more school hours in a school year, the following will occur. The school's attendance officer will notify the child's parent, guardian, or custodian of the child's absences after the date absent that triggered the notice requirement. If a student's absences surpass the threshold for a habitual truant, the principal or chief administrator of the school or the superintendent of the school district shall assign the student to a district absence intervention team, which will develop an intervention plan for that student. Every effort will be made to include a parent, guardian or custodian as a member of the student's absence intervention team. Notice of the plan developed by the student's absence intervention team will be provided to the student's parent, guardian or custodian. At no time, however, will students be expelled or suspended out of school due to excessive absences or truancy.

Applicable Ohio Revised Code Sections contained within this policy:

[ORC 3313.20](#) (Rules - locker search policy - professional meetings)

[ORC 3313.534](#) (Policy of zero tolerance for violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior)

[ORC 3313.66](#) (Suspension, expulsion or permanent exclusion-removal from curricular or extracurricular activities)

[ORC 3313.661](#) (Policy regarding suspension, expulsion, removal, and permanent exclusion)

[ORC 3313.662](#) (Adjudication order permanently excluding pupil from public schools)

[ORC 3321.191](#) (Adoption of policy regarding student absences; intervention strategies)