

CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

The Clinton Township Board of Education believes that an effective instructional program requires an orderly school environment and that the effectiveness of the educational program is, in part, reflected in the behavior of students. The Board approved Code of Student Conduct is established to achieve the following purposes:

- A. Foster the health, safety, and social and emotional well-being of students;
- B. Support the establishment and maintenance of civil, safe, secure, supportive and disciplined school environments conducive to learning;
- C. Promote achievement of high academic standards;
- D. Prevent the occurrence of problem behaviors;
- E. Establish parameters for the intervention and remediation of problem student behaviors at all stages of identification; and
- F. Establish parameters for consistent responses to violations of the Code of Student Conduct that take into account, at a minimum, the severity of offenses, the developmental ages of student offenders and students' histories of inappropriate behaviors as appropriate.

The Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, for school personnel, for the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. Students are expected to:

- A. Conform to reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior; respect the person, property and rights of others;
- B. Obey constituted authority and respond to those who hold that authority;
- C. Prepare mentally and physically for the process of learning each day school is in session;
- D. Be honest and refrain from all forms of cheating in the completion of school assignments and work;
- E. Take responsibility for their own behavior;
- F. Use time and other resources efficiently;
- G. Willingly share responsibilities when working with others;

- H. Meet the daily requirements of each course of study;
- I. Be accountable for their own progress toward school objectives; and
- J. Communicate with parents/guardians and appropriate school staff members.

The Board of Education believes that standards of student behavior must be set cooperatively by interaction among the students, parents/guardians, staff and community, producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. Such an atmosphere must include respect for self and others, as well as for district and community property.

Board policy requires each student of this district to adhere to the rules and regulations established by the administration and to submit to such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. The Superintendent shall provide to students and their parents/guardians the rules of this district regarding student conduct and the sanctions that may be imposed for breach of those rules. Provisions shall be made for informing parents/guardians whose primary language is other than English.

The Superintendent shall establish the degree of order necessary to the educational program in which students are engaged.

Code of Conduct

The Superintendent or designee shall oversee the development of and the Board shall approve a Code of Student Conduct, which establishes standards, policies and procedures for positive student development and student behavioral expectations on school grounds, including on a school bus or at school sponsored functions. The Code of Conduct may be based on parent/guardian and student involvement, and locally determined core ethical values. The Superintendent has the right and authority to impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds that is consistent with the Board's approved Code of Student Conduct, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.5.

This authority shall be exercised only when it is reasonably necessary for the student's physical or emotional safety, security and well-being or for reasons relating to the safety, security and well-being of other students, staff or school grounds, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2, and when the conduct which is the subject of the proposed consequence materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school. The Board shall direct development of detailed regulations suited to the age level of the students and the physical facilities of the individual schools.

The district Code of Conduct shall contain:

- A. A description of student responsibilities that includes expectations for academic achievement, behavior and attendance;
- B. A description of behaviors that will result in suspension or expulsion;

C. A description of the students' rights to:

1. Advance notice of behaviors that will result in suspensions or expulsions;
2. Education that supports student development into productive citizens;
3. Attendance in safe and secure school environment;
4. Attendance in school irrespective of marriage, pregnancy, or parenthood;
5. Due process and appeal procedures in accordance with law and Board policy;
6. Parent notifications consistent with Board policy and law for law enforcement interviews (5605 Questioning and Apprehension), short-term and long-term suspension (5610 Suspension and Expulsion), due process and appeal procedures, and attendance (5200 Attendance, Absences and Excuses);
7. Records and privacy protections (8330 Student Records).

D. A description of comprehensive behavioral supports that promote positive student development and assist each student in fulfilling the district behavioral expectations established including:

1. Positive reinforcement for good conduct and academic success;
2. Supportive interventions and referral services;
3. Remediation of problem behavior that takes into account the behavior's nature, the students' developmental ages and the students' histories of problem behaviors and performance; and
4. Behavioral interventions and supports for students with an IEP or accommodation plans.

E. A description of responses to violations of behavioral expectations that, at a minimum, are graded according to the severity of the offenses, and consider the developmental ages of the student offenders and their histories of inappropriate behaviors that shall:

1. Include a continuum of actions designed to remediate and, where necessary or required by law, to impose sanctions;
2. Be consistent with other responses as required by law for serious offenses including firearms, weapons and assault offenses;
3. Ensure that the code of student conduct is applied equitably without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, nationality, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital, domestic-partnership, or civil-union, mental, physical, or sensory disability, or any other distinguishing characteristic;
4. Be consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1 regarding the corporal punishment of students.

F. Expectations and consequences consistent board policies and procedures 5200 Attendance, Absences and Excuses and 5512 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying;

G. A current list of community-based health and social service provider agencies available to support a student and the student's family, as appropriate, and a list of legal resources available to serve the community.

A student may be denied privileges such as participation in extracurricular activities, school functions, sports, graduation exercises or other privileges as disciplinary sanctions in order to maintain the order and integrity of the school environment.

Student Behavioral Infractions

Students who display chronic behavioral or academic problems may be referred to the child study team by the Superintendent and/or designee for an evaluation to determine disability or the need for other services. Such referrals shall be in strict accordance with the due process regulations prescribed by the administrative code. Students so identified shall be provided with appropriate programs and services as prescribed by the child study team.

A student whose presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, may be suspended in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3 or expulsion in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4, following due process. However, one incident alone is not sufficient cause for an expulsion.

Any student who commits an assault (as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1) upon a Board member, teacher, administrator or other employee of the Board of Education shall be suspended from school immediately according to procedural due process, and suspension in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1 and N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.2, N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.3 or expulsion in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.4. However, one incident alone is not sufficient cause for an expulsion. Proceedings shall begin no later than 30 calendar days from the date of the student's suspension.

The Superintendent or his or her designee shall take appropriate measures to ensure that minority and male students shall not be disproportionately represented in detentions, suspensions and expulsions.

Substance Abuse

In accordance with statute and code, penalties shall be assigned for use, possession and distribution of proscribed substances and drug paraphernalia. The penalties shall be graded according to the severity of the offense in accordance with Policy 5530 Substance Abuse. Infractions shall be reported to the local law enforcement agency in accordance with the district's memorandum of agreement. Confidentiality shall be protected in accordance with federal and state law.

Weapons Offenses

Any student who is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for possession of a firearm or a crime while armed with a firearm or found knowingly in possession of a firearm on any school property or on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function shall be immediately removed from the school's regular education program for a period of not less than one calendar year. The Superintendent may modify this suspension on a case-by-case basis. Each student so removed shall be placed in an alternative educational program or on home instruction pending alternative education program placement and shall be entitled to a hearing before the Board. The hearing shall take place no later than 30 days following the day the student is removed from the regular education program and shall be closed to the public.

The Principal shall be responsible for the removal of such students and shall immediately report them to the Superintendent. The Principal shall also notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of a possible violation of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice.

The Superintendent shall determine at the end of the year whether the student is prepared to return to the regular education program, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-5.5(i).

Teaching staff members and other employees of this Board having authority over students shall take such lawful means as may be necessary to control the disorderly conduct of students in all situations and in all places where such students are within the jurisdiction of this Board.

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying

The Board expects all students to treat each other with civility and respect and not to engage in behavior that is disruptive or violent. This type of behavior interferes with a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. Therefore, the school district will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying.

The Board prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying against any student in accordance with Board Policy 5512 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, and law.

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" is defined as any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school grounds, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus, or off school grounds in accordance with law, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students and that:

- A. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, what will have the effect of physically or mentally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or mental harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or
- B. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or
- C. Creates a hostile educational environment by interfering with the student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

"Electronic communication" means a communication that is transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager, that takes place on school grounds, at any school-sponsored function or on a school bus.

Gangs

The Board acknowledges the existence of criminal gangs in our society, and the importance and necessity of deterring all persons from emulating gangs or contributing to the proliferation of gangs. A gang in this policy is defined as “any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts and having a common name or common identifying signs, colors, and/or symbols.”

- A. The Board prohibits the following on school property or at school related functions, and off school property if it involves intimidation or an attack on another student in the District:
1. Wearing of gang apparel, accessories, signs, insignias, or symbols on one’s clothing or person;
 2. Display of gang apparel, accessories, signs, insignias, or symbols on personal property; Communication in any method (verbally or non-verbally) designed to convey gang membership or affiliation;
 3. Initiating, advocating, or promoting a gang or any gang-related activities;
 4. Tagging or defacing school property with gang names, slogans and/or insignias;
 5. Conducting gang initiations;
 6. Threatening another with bodily injury and/or inflicting bodily injury on another in connection with a gang or gang-related activity;
 7. Inciting, soliciting, or recruiting others for gang membership or gang-related activities;
 8. Aiding or abetting any of the above activities by one’s presence or support.

Any student found to have engaged in any of the above shall be subject to school discipline, including but not limited to detention, suspension, and/or expulsion. For any disciplinary matter covered by the above or by any other part of the school’s disciplinary code, a finding that the conduct was gang-related or gang-affiliated shall be considered an aggravating factor in determining the appropriate punishment.

The Superintendent, Principal or other administrators shall attend a gang education seminar on how to recognize signs of gang involvement or activity within the first year of initial employment. Any administrator employed prior to October 12, 2007 shall attend the first seminar offered in the County. Administrators shall be exempt from attending the required seminar if that person has successfully completed a gang education seminar conducted by a public school district, which is equivalent to the required seminar.

Secret Societies

The Board prohibits fraternities, sororities, secret societies or other organizations that organize and perpetuate by selecting members:

- A. Drawn from outside the currently enrolled student body;
- B. Whose qualifications are based on considerations and/or the exclusion of students for race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, familial status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability,

nationality, disability, pregnancy, political beliefs, or socioeconomic status;

- C. Whose qualifications are based on filling the special aims of such organization rather than the student's free choice;

All school activities shall be Board approved and conducted according to Board policies 2430 Extracurricular Activities and 2431 Intramural and Interscholastic Competition in school activities shall be the free choice of any student and school activities shall not discriminate (see Board policy 1140).

Any student who seeks to form or is a member of a fraternity, sorority, society or organization composed in whole or in part of district students shall be subject to discipline according to the Code of Student Conduct (see 5600 Conduct and Discipline Regulation).

Students with Disabilities

Classified students are subject to the same disciplinary procedures as nondisabled students and may be disciplined in accordance with their IEP and accommodation plans. However, before disciplining a classified student, it must be determined that:

- A. The student's behavior is not primarily caused by his/her educational disability;
- B. The program that is being provided meets the student's needs.

Staff shall comply with state and federal law and the regulations of the New Jersey administrative code in dealing with discipline and/or suspension of all students with disabilities.

Policy and Procedure Development, Review and Dissemination

The standards and procedures developed to implement this policy shall be aligned with the Board approved Code of Student Conduct and accepted Board approved core ethical values. Policies, standards and procedures shall be based on parent, student and community involvement which represents, where possible, the composition of the schools and community, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.1.

This policy shall be reviewed and updated along with the Code of Student Conduct on an as needed basis. This process shall include:

- A. Parent, student and community involvement which represents, where possible, the composition of the schools and community;
- B. Consideration of the findings of the annual reports of student conduct, suspensions and expulsions; and incidences reported under the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System.

Implementation

The Superintendent shall ensure that the rules for this policy are applied consistently with the district's Code of Student Conduct (N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7) and all applicable laws and regulations and that all disciplinary sanctions are carried out with necessary due process.

The Board may review and update the Code of Student Conduct annually, when necessary. The Code of Student Conduct shall be posted on the district's website annually for public viewing and shall be included in the student's handbooks.

The Superintendent shall report as required by law to the New Jersey Department of Education on student conduct, including all student suspension and expulsion and incidences reported under the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System.

Principals shall ensure that staff members receive annual training on the Code of Student Conduct, including training on the prevention, intervention, and remediation of student conduct that violates the Code of Student Conduct. Information on the Code of Student Conduct shall be incorporated into the orientation for new employees.

Adopted:	July 26, 2010
Review/Update:	December 2015
Readopted:	8/22/16
Readopted:	10/23/17