

**File: JI****STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The School Committee has the responsibility to afford students the rights that are theirs by virtue of guarantees offered under the federal and state constitutions, statutes, regulations pertaining to students. In connection with rights there are responsibilities that must be assumed by students.

Among these rights and responsibilities are the following:

1. Civil rights--including the rights to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination; the responsibility not to discriminate against others.
2. The right to attend free public schools; the responsibility to attend school regularly and to observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school.
3. The right to due process of law with respect to suspension, expulsion, and decisions the student believes injure his/her rights.
4. The right to free inquiry and expression; responsibility to observe reasonable rules regarding these rights.
5. The right to privacy, which includes privacy in respect to the student's school records.
6. The right to know the standards of behavior that are expected, and the consequences of misbehavior.

Students should be made aware of their legal rights and recognize the legal authority of the School Committee to make, and delegate authority to its staff to make, rules regarding the orderly operation of the schools.

The rights and responsibilities of students, including standards of conduct, will be made available to students and their parents/guardians through handbooks distributed electronically or on paper annually.

Legal Refs.: M.G.L. 71:37H, Policies Relative to Conduct of Teachers or Students; Student Handbooks  
M.G.L. 71:82, Rights o Students to Freedom of Expression  
M.G.L. 71:83, Dress and Appearance of Students Protected  
M.G.L. 71:84, Discipline of Students on Matters Unrelated to School Sponsored Activities Prohibited  
M.G.L. 71:85, Guidelines Implementing Secs. 82 - 84  
M.G.L. 71:86, Applications of Secs. 82 - 85

Revised: December 18, 2013