

File: JK

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Massachusetts General Laws require the School Committee to adopt written policies, rules and regulations not inconsistent with law, which may relate to study, discipline, conduct, safety and welfare of all students, or any classification thereof, enrolled in the public schools of the District.

The implementation of the general rules of conduct is the responsibility of the Principal and the professional staff of the building. In order to do this, each school staff in the District shall develop specific rules not inconsistent with the law nor in conflict with School Committee policy. These building rules shall be an extension of the District policies by being more specific as they relate to the individual schools. These rules will be included in School Handbooks of each school building.

When disciplinary action is necessary, it shall be administered with fairness and shall relate to the individual needs and the individual circumstances.

Students violating any of the policies on student conduct and control will be subject to disciplinary action. The degree, frequency, and circumstances surrounding each incident shall determine the method used in enforcing these policies. Most of the situations which require disciplinary action can be resolved within the confines of the classroom or as they occur by reasonable but firm reprimand, and/or by teacher conferences with the student and/or parents or guardians.

Students and their parents/guardians who believe that a student(s) has received unfair treatment in the form of disciplinary action will have the right to appeal. School officials will follow any applicable provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws and/or federal law, when conducting hearings and reviews of student grievances. In general, appeals procedures will begin with the authority imposing the penalty (for example, Principal or teacher) and may ultimately be referred to the Superintendent or his/her District Office designee.

If a situation should arise in which there is no applicable written policy, the staff member shall be expected to exercise reasonable and professional judgment.

With regards to students on Individual Education Programs or a student who has been referred for testing to determine if the student qualifies for special education services, the requirements of IDEA (2004), and as amended thereafter, will be followed.

Legal Refs.: M.G.L. 76:16, Public Schools: Status; Powers and Duties
M.G.L. 71:37H, Policies Relative to the Conduct of Teachers or Students; School Handbooks
M.G.L. 71:37L, Notification to School Personnel of Reporting Requirements for Child Abuse and Neglect and Fires; Reports of Students Possessing or Using Dangerous Weapons on School Premises
Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004 (IDEA '04) 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*; <http://idea.ed.gov>
Chapter 766 Regulations, S. 338.0 Mass. Dept. Of Education, Advisory Opinion on

Student Discipline, January 27, 1994

Cross Ref: School Handbooks

Revised: December 18, 2013