

WELLS-OGUNQUIT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DISTRICT-WIDE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Ethical and responsible student behavior is an essential part of the educational mission of our schools. To that end, the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District School Committee has developed this District-wide code of conduct with input from school staff, students, parents, and the community. The code defines our expectations for student behavior and provides the framework for a safe, orderly and respectful learning environment.

Article 1: Standards for Ethical and Responsible Behavior

The Code of Conduct is intended to support and encourage students to meet the following local standards for ethical and responsible behavior:

Respect Responsibility Honesty Trustworthiness Compassion

Article 2: Code of Conduct

All students are expected to comply with the Code of Conduct and all related School Committee policies and school rules. The Code applies to students:

- ⇒ On school property,
- ⇒ While in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity, or
- ⇒ At any time or place such conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

Article 3: General K-12 Behavior Expectations

*A person who is **respectful** of self and others should:*

- ⇒ Appreciate and honor diversity by tolerating different views and beliefs
- ⇒ Be responsible for his/her actions
- ⇒ Demonstrate behaviors that create and support a healthy, safe environment

*A person who is **responsible** individually and as a member of the community should:*

- ⇒ Take ownership for his/her educational success
- ⇒ Use his/her skills to help others, improve the school environment and the larger community
- ⇒ Accept ownership and consequences for personal actions or failure to act

*A person who is **trustworthy** when dealing with others should:*

- ⇒ Gain others' respect
- ⇒ Complete the job
- ⇒ Be reliable

*A person who is **honest** in all academic endeavors and interpersonal relationships should:*

- ⇒ Tell the entire truth
- ⇒ Be true to self

*A person who is **compassionate** in dealing with the limitations and sufferings of others should:*

- ⇒ Not deceive others with words or actions
- ⇒ Be kind and courteous to others
- ⇒ Be tolerant and understanding of others' feelings

Article 4: Expectations

The following is a summary of the district's expectations for student behavior. In many cases, the School Committee has adopted policies that address these expectations in greater detail. Students, parents, and others should refer to the policies and student handbooks for more information about the expectations and consequences. In case of an inconsistency between the Code of Conduct, School Committee policies and/or school handbooks, School Committee policies will prevail.

A. Violence and Threats

Students shall not engage in violent or threatening behavior. Prohibited behavior includes fighting, assault and/or battery, taking hostages, threats or acts to commit violence against persons or property or threats, intimidation, or harassment. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

See policies: JFCJ – Weapons, Violence, and School Safety
EBCC – Bomb Threats

B. Weapons

Students shall not possess or use weapons of any kind (examples include, but are not limited to, firearms, explosives and knives). Students also shall not use any object, although not necessarily designed to be a weapon, to inflict bodily harm and/or to threaten, intimidate, coerce, or harass another person (examples include but are not limited to bats, lighters, tools or toy weapons). Firearms violations will result in expulsion in accordance with state and federal statutes; other weapons violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

See policy: JFCJ – Weapons, Violence and School Safety

C. Hazing

Hazing is prohibited. Maine law defines injurious hazing as “any action or situation, including harassing behavior that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health of any school personnel or a student enrolled in a public school.” No student shall plan, encourage, or engage in such activities in connection with any school program or activity, including extra-curricular, co-curricular and athletic activities. Students who engage in hazing activities are subject to suspension, expulsion, and/or other appropriate disciplinary actions.

See Policy: JFCF – Hazing

D. Discrimination and Harassment/Sexual Harassment

Students should not discriminate against other students on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, or disability. Students should not harass one another on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national

origin, or disability. Sexual harassment is also prohibited. Harassment is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

See Policies: AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity
AC-R-2 – Student Discrimination and Harassment

E. Drug and Alcohol Use

Students shall not distribute, possess, use, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, drug or look-alike substance as described by School Committee policy. Violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from school.

See Policy: JFCH – Student Substance Abuse

F. Tobacco Use

Students shall not smoke, use, possess, sell or distribute any tobacco products. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension from school.

See Policy: ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession

G. Conduct on School Buses

Students must comply with all School Committee policies and school rules while riding on buses. Students who violate these policies and rules on a school bus may have their riding privileges suspended or revoked, and may also be subject to additional disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, depending upon the particular violation.

See Policy: JFCC – Student Conduct on School Buses

H. Computer/Internet Use

Students may only use school computers, networks and Internet services for educational purposes. Students shall comply with all policies and rules governing acceptable use. Unacceptable use may result in suspension or cancellation of computer privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

See Policy: IJNDB – Student Computer and Internet Use

I. Co-Curricular Code of Conduct

Students must follow all School Committee policies and school rules while participating in athletics and extra-curricular activities.

See Policy: IGD – Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Programs

Article 5: Removal of Disruptive/Violent/Threatening Students

1. Students who are disruptive, violent or threatening death or bodily harm to others may be removed from classrooms, school buses or other school property when necessary to maintain order and safety. The staff member who orders the student removed should arrange to have the student escorted to the office or other designated location.
2. If a student does not comply with a staff member's order to leave, the staff member will contact an administrator, or, if not available, another suitable person, who shall respond promptly.
3. Staff members should not use force or restraint, except to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm. Staff members are not required to take action that puts them at risk of serious injury.
4. The responding administrator will take appropriate action. If the student fails to obey verbal directions, force or restraint may be used only to the minimum extent necessary to protect any person from imminent physical harm or to quell a disturbance. Whenever practicable, law enforcement should be called to restrain or physically remove a non-compliant student. The administrator may invoke the district's crisis response plan if appropriate.

See: 20-M.S.R.A. §4009 – Protection from Liability
Policy EBC – Crisis Response Plan

Article 6: Special Services

1. Referral. The Wells-Ogunquit C.S.D. School Committee has adopted policies and procedures for determining when a student shall be referred for special services.

See Policies: IGBAD – Referral to Pupil Evaluation Team
IGBAC – Screening, Including Child Find and Referral

2. Review of Individual Education Plan. The school shall schedule a PET (Pupil Evaluation Team) meeting to review the IEP (Individual Education Plan) of a student who has been removed from class when: a) school officials and/or the parent believes the student may present a substantial likelihood of injury to himself/herself or others; b) the class removals are sufficient to constitute a change in the student's special education program; or c) school officials or the parent believes that the student's behavior may warrant a change in educational programming.

See Policy: JGF – Disciplinary Removal of Students with Disabilities

3. Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint. The district has established a policy on the use of time out rooms and therapeutic restraints as required by Maine statute.

See Policy: JHF – Time Out Rooms and Therapeutic Restraint

Article 7: Referrals to Law Enforcement Authorities

The Superintendent and administrators have the authority to seek the assistance of law enforcement authorities when there is a substantial threat to the safety of the schools, students, or staff. The Superintendent/administration may also inform law enforcement authorities when they have reason to suspect that a student or staff member may have violated a local, state or federal statute. All serious offenses, as determined by the Superintendent, must be reported to law enforcement authorities.

See Policy: JFG – Relations with Police Authorities

Article 8: Dissemination of District-Wide Code of Conduct

The district-wide Student Code of Conduct shall be distributed to staff, students, and parents through handbooks and/or other means selected by the Superintendent and building administrators.

Legal Reference: 20-M.S.R.A. §§ 254, (1); 1001 (15)