

SWEETWATER CITY SCHOOLS

CODE OF BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

The Board of Education believes that good student behavior is an essential ingredient of effective education programs. Students are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect favorably upon themselves, their families, their community, and their school.

The Director of Schools shall be responsible for the overall implementation and supervision of the Board's Code of Behavior and Discipline and shall ensure that students at all schools are subject to a uniform and fair application of the Code.

The principal of each school shall be responsible for implementation and administration in his/her school and shall apply the Code uniformly and fairly to each student at the school without partiality and discrimination.

The Board delegates to the Director the responsibility of developing more specific codes of behavior and discipline which are appropriate for each level of school. The development of each code shall involve principals and faculty members of each level of school and shall be consistent with the content of the Board's Code.

A copy of the Code shall be posted at each school and guidance counselors shall be supplied copies for discussion with students. The code shall be referenced in all school handbooks. All teachers, administrative staff and parents shall be provided copies of the Code.

The staff is expected to ensure student conduct which allows for an acceptable learning atmosphere both in and outside the classroom and to help students develop self-discipline and self-direction.

To this end, the licensed staff is authorized to take reasonable measures to establish appropriate school behavior. The instructional staff shall have the authority to control any student's conduct while under the supervision of the school district. This authority to control student conduct shall extend to all activities of the school, including all games and public performances of athletic teams and other school groups, trips, excursions, and all other activities under school sponsorship and direction.

Such measures may include the use of reasonable force to restrain or correct students and maintain order.

Discipline Procedures

Students are expected to conform to the rules and regulations of the school system and apply themselves to the learning process.

The following levels of misbehavior and disciplinary procedures and options are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties.

MISBEHAVIORS: Level I

Minor misbehavior on the part of the student which impedes orderly classroom procedures or interferes with the orderly operation of the school, but which can usually be handled by an individual staff members.

Examples (not an exclusive listing):

- Classroom disturbances
- Classroom tardiness
- Cheating and lying
- Abusive language
- Nondefiant failure to do assignments or carry out directions
- Harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious)

Disciplinary Procedures:

- Immediate intervention by the staff members.
- Determine what offense was committed and its severity.
- Determine offender and that he/she understands the nature of the offense.
- Employ appropriate disciplinary options.
- Record of the offense and disciplinary action maintained by staff member.

Disciplinary Options:

- Verbal reprimand
- Special Assignment
- Restricting activities
- Assigning work details
- Counseling
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Time-out
- Issuance of demerits which might affect citizenship or department grades
- Strict supervised study
- Detention
- Corporal punishment

MISBEHAVIORS: Level II

Misbehavior of *frequency* or *seriousness* that tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school. Included in this level are misbehaviors which do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but whose educational consequences are serious enough to require corrective action on the part of administrative personnel.

Examples (not an exclusive listing):

Continuation of unmodified Level I behaviors
School or class tardiness
School or class truancy
Possession of tobacco
Using forged notes or excuses
Disruptive classroom behavior
Harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious)

Disciplinary Procedures:

Student is referred to principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
Principal meets with student and teacher.
Principal hears accusation made by teacher, permits student the opportunity to explaining his/her conduct, denying it or explaining any mitigating circumstances.
Principal takes appropriate disciplinary action and notifies teacher of action.
Record of offense and disciplinary action maintained by principal.

Disciplinary Options:

Teacher/schedule change
Modified probation
Behavior modification
Social probation
Peer counseling
Referral to outside agency
In-school suspension
Detention
Suspension from school-sponsored activities and/or from riding school bus
Corporal punishment
Restricting school related honors student is otherwise due
Out-of-school suspension not to exceed ten (10) days.
Assignment to Saturday School

MISBEHAVIORS: Level III

Acts directly against persons or property but whose consequences *do not seriously endanger* the health of safety of others in the school.

Examples (not an exclusive listing):

Continuation of unmodified Level I and II behaviors
Fighting (simple)
Vandalism (minor)
Stealing
Threats to others
Harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious)

Disciplinary Procedures:

Student is referred to principal for appropriate disciplinary action.
Principal meets with student and teacher.
Principal hears accusation by accusing party and permits offender the opportunity of explaining conduct.
Principal takes appropriate disciplinary action.
Principal may refer incident to superintendent and make recommendations for consequences.
If student's program is to be changed, adequate notice shall be given to the student and his/her parents of the charges against him, his/her right to appear at a hearing and to be represented by a person of his/her choosing.
Any change in school assignment is appealable to the Board.
Record of offense and disciplinary action maintained by principal or superintendent.

Disciplinary Options:

In-school suspension
Detention
Corporal punishment
Restitution from loss, damage or stolen property
Out-of-school- suspension not to exceed ten (10) days
Social adjustment classes
Long term out-of-school suspension
Alternative school
Assignment to Saturday School

MISBEHAVIORS: Level IV

Acts which result in violence to another's person or property or which pose a threat to the safety of others in the school. These acts are so serious that they usually require administrative actions which result in the immediate removal of the student from the school, the intervention of law enforcement authorities and action by the Board.

Examples (not an exclusive listing):

- Unmodified Level I, II and III behaviors
- Extortion
- Bomb Threat
- Possession/use/transfer of firearms*
- Possession/use/transfer of dangerous weapons
- Assault/battery of school personnel*
- Assault/battery - other
- Vandalism
- Theft/possession/sale of stolen property
- Arson
- Possession/use/transfer of unauthorized substances*
- Harassment (sexual, racial, ethnic, religious)

Disciplinary Procedures:

- Principal confers with appropriate staff members and with the student.
- Principal hears accusation by accusing party and permits offender opportunity explaining conduct.
- Parents are notified.
- Law enforcement officials are contacted.
- Incident is reported and recommendations made to the superintendent.
- Complete and accurate reports are submitted to the superintendent.
- Student is given hearing before disciplinary hearing authority.

Disciplinary Options

- Out-of-school- suspension
- Alternative schools
- Expulsion
- Other hearing authority or Board action which results in appropriate placement

*Suspension for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year subject to modification by the superintendent on a case-by-case basis.

Student behavior and discipline are further addressed in the Board of Education Policy Manual. Copies of these policies may be obtained through the school principal.

