

## **STUDENTS**

5131(a)

### **CONDUCT**

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish expectations and responsibilities governing the conduct and behavior of all school students, including the provision for the enforcement of the same.

#### **PHILOSOPHY**

The Board of Education believes that every resident student has the right to receive a free, appropriate public education in the Litchfield Public Schools. That to secure these rights, each student has a right to an education free from harassment, free from physical or psychological harm, and free from disruptive behaviors by him or herself or of other students.

The Board of Education believes that a school, like any community, must have rules by which to operate. The Board of Education, with help of students, parents and staff, sets forth these guidelines and rules by which we can function efficiently and fairly in the community.

#### **GENERAL: RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

A modern school is like a community in miniature. And, like any community, it must have rules by which it operates; the alternative being social chaos. A complete understanding of each person's rights and responsibilities within the school community is necessary.

Responsibilities refer mainly to the individual's obligation to others. In order for individuals to preserve their own rights, they must assume a sense of responsibility toward the preservation of the rights of others. Those rights terminate at the point where they begin to infringe upon the rights of others. To the extent responsibilities are not carried out, one's own rights become jeopardized. Responsibilities provide the foundation upon which individual rights become meaningful and effective.

In order to insure every individual's rights, standards of acceptable behavior shall be developed, established and maintained. Every effort should be made to solve disciplinary problems within the school setting and without excluding a student from school.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

##### 1. Students:

Students have the responsibility to respect the rights of all persons involved in the learning process. Students also shall exercise the highest degree of self-discipline in observing and adhering to rules and regulations. No student has a right to interfere with the education of fellow students. In order to fulfill these democratic ideals, a student

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

## 1. Students (continued)

must behave with respect for parents, teachers, fellow students and other adults. Most importantly, the student must have respect for self; believe in self and individual worth.

## 2. Staff:

- a. The Board of Education holds all school personnel, through the Superintendent, responsible for the proper conduct and control of students while under the legal supervision of the school, and supports all personnel acting within the framework of the District policy. The Board of Education expects all employees to exercise sound professional judgment in employing preventive, therapeutic, and punitive measures to promote acceptable student behavior.
- b. The Superintendent shall establish procedures to carry out this policy and for the conduct of students in the schools including any and all school connected activities, and shall support all school personnel performing their duties within the framework of the District policy.
- c. The school Principal shall be responsible to the Superintendent for the conduct of the school. The Principal shall be given the responsibility and authority, and may include the faculty in the process, to formulate such procedures as necessary to enforce the District policy. The Principal shall exercise professional judgment in the disposition of behavior referrals.
- d. Teachers shall be responsible for proper and adequate control of students at all times. Teachers shall enforce the rules and regulations of the schools and shall give support to their Principals in maintaining District policy. Teachers are expected to use all resources at their disposal before referring discipline problems to the Principal. The prime responsibility for maintaining discipline in the classroom and in the general area of child supervision rests with the teacher.
- e. Responsibilities of support personnel relating to student behavior shall be limited to those specifically authorized and assigned by the Superintendent and/or the building principals.

## 3. Parents:

The ultimate responsibility for children's behavior rests with the parents. The following are among their specific responsibilities:

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

3. Parents (continued)

- a. Parents should be involved with their child, and are, therefore, expected to cooperate with the school authorities and participate in conferences regarding the behavior of their children.
- b. Support the schools in requiring their children to observe all school rules and regulations.
- c. Accept responsibility for any willful misbehavior on their student's part.
- d. Send students to school with proper attention having been given to health, personal cleanliness, and appropriateness of dress that is reflective of neatness and non-distractive in nature.
- e. Maintain an active interest in the student's daily work. Make it possible for them to complete assigned homework, particularly by providing suitable conditions for study.
- f. Comply with the schools requests. This includes reading carefully all communications and signing and returning them as requested.

Cf. 5114.1 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process

Cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment

Legal Reference: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-572 Parental Liability for Torts of minors. Damage defined.