

Conduct and Discipline

Students on school grounds and at school sponsored activities are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which promotes a safe, orderly environment and does not infringe upon the rights of others. Students may be subject to disciplinary action for behavior inconsistent with this policy.

The Superintendent shall ensure that each school principal, in conjunction with the school council, prepares a student handbook setting forth the school's rules and possible consequences of violation of those rules. In addition to addressing matters specific to the individual school, such rules shall address student's possession of controlled substances (including drugs and alcohol) or dangerous weapons, use of force, theft, vandalism, knowingly making a false accusation, and violations of other students' civil rights. Students shall be provided with a copy of the handbook.

School staff is expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and to intervene or seek assistance in the event of a violation. School officials are required to contact parents/guardians of students under age 18 for violations of this policy which may result in students' suspension or expulsion.

No student shall be disciplined without being afforded appropriate due process. The Superintendent shall ensure that all student discipline procedures provide appropriate due process protections as required by state and federal law and regulations.

The discipline of a student who has been identified as having special needs is subject to the requirements of state and federal laws and regulations and the student's Individualized Education Plan. The Superintendent shall ensure that each school observes the legal requirements and procedural safeguards for discipline of students with special needs.

Legal References:

MGL 71:37H

76: 16 & 17

20 USC 1415(k)

34 CFR 300.530-536

Massachusetts Department of Education Guidance: Discipline of Special Education

Students under IDEA: www.doe.mass.edu/sped/IDEA2004/spr_meetings/disc_chart.pdf
(updated 2007)

Cross Reference: Administration - 2008 – Student Handbooks