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| NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT DISCIPLINE POLICY | Approved: 8/25/2010 |
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Discipline Philosophy

The North Providence School Department is committed to a process of discipline and behavioral supports that maintain a balance between the needs of the educational system and the needs of individuals who are being served. The rules and regulations that exist are intended to support high quality teaching and learning, , to ensure safety, and to encourage active student involvement in personal growth and development.

. The developmental needs of students must be addressed if significant student academic and social-emotional growth are to occur. In view of these needs the North Providence School Department recognizes the importance of an appropriate learning environment and supports the maintenance of a positive school climate that emphasizes as a school district and in each individual school, discipline data will be reviewed annually and related action plans implemented to ensure equity and proportionality across all student sub groups.

The district and school administrators maintain the authority to modify disciplinary actions based on the student’s individual circumstances.

Self-Control

Regular Attendance

Order and Organization

Proper Safety and Security

All North Providence students are expected to accept the responsibility for their actions. They must realize that their actions should promote positive educational outcomes. Actions and conduct of students affect the atmosphere in which all must learn and work. Therefore, every student should treat all members of the educational community with respect and courtesy.

SCHOOL RULES AND REGULATIONS:

It is expected that all students will follow the rules of behavior necessary to ensure that a supportive learning environment exists in all North Providence schools. The following list, while not inclusive, specifies offenses for which students will receive disciplinary action.

For policy purposes K-5 are designated as elementary. Grades 6-12 are designated as secondary.

Scope:

The discipline code applies to the school day which covers pre and post school time in school buildings and on school grounds. The discipline code also pertains to any school function or any school related or sponsored activity, whether on or off school grounds.

Disciplinary Action

There are three types of disciplinary action:

- A. Detention – which is the loss of free time before or after school.
- B. Short Term Suspension – which is the removal of the student from school or in school from classes, including activities for less than ten (10) days. .
- C. Long Term Suspension – which is the removal of the student from school and its activities for more than ten (10) days. School Committee approval is required, including an alternate education plan of continued services according to RI General Law 16-21-27.

DETENTION OFFENSES:

- Inappropriate behavior in school buildings, buses, or other areas of the school and its grounds, or at school sponsored events on/off campus. Such conduct is defined as conduct which is disruptive to the education process, activity, event and/or rights of other individuals.
- Frequent tardiness (more than 3 times) to class (grades 6-12).
- Frequent tardiness (more than 3 times) to school:

(Grade 6-12 students receive one hour detention for every tardy upon the fourth lateness. Students are allowed three excused and three unexcused tardies per school year).

- Failure to report to after school for a Teacher or Administrator (all levels).
- Unauthorized absences from class, assemblies, detention, or other assigned activity (all levels).
- Unauthorized absence from school.

. Students must receive 24 hour notice prior to detention assignment date.

SUSPENSION OFFENSES:

School Administrators shall utilize in-school suspension at the secondary level when appropriate and as defined by state law in order to maintain support for student learning. A parent/guardian conference is required prior to the student being reinstated from suspension.

1. Conduct which endangers persons or property, or is seriously disruptive of the educational process. Included within, but not limited to, such prohibited conduct are the following acts:
 - a. Conduct causing a threat of danger to the physical well-being of the student , or other(s) , including threats made through social media or other electronic methods (1-3 days - elementary, 5-10 days - secondary).
 - b. Physical assault on another person on school premises, bus stops, buses, or at school sponsored events/activities. (1-3 days - elementary, 5-10 days - secondary with SRO/police involvement).
 - c. Taking or attempting to take personal property/money from another student , staff member, or the school, by means of force, or threat of force. (1-3 days - elementary, 1-5 days - secondary).
 - d. Causing/attempting to cause damage to school property or disruption to the school environment. (No less than 3 days all levels). Offense may result in SRO/police involvement and may require restitution.

2. Defiance of authority, insubordination, or verbal abuse to an Administrator, Teacher, or staff member. (1-5 days all levels).
3. Leaving school grounds without permission. (First offense - 1 day, increasing after the first offense).
4. Smoking (including electronic, vapor, or other tobacco products) in any area on school property during school, on buses, or at any school function on/off campus. (First offense- 1 day, increasing after the first offense). Participation in therapeutic intervention is required.
5. Being under the influence of, the use of, or possession of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, marijuana, etc... on school property, on buses, during school or at any school function on/off campus. (No less than 5 days, including SRO/police involvement). Participation in therapeutic intervention is required.
6. Accessing inappropriate internet websites or content during the school day or during school sponsored activities utilizing a personal or school device (1-5 days all levels).
7. Repeated violations of offenses, which have resulted in detention, may result in suspension for insubordination. (1-5 days all levels).
8. Tampering with, accessing, or providing entrance/exit through any unauthorized door of the school building (1-5 days all levels).
9. Actions which involve harassment (both sexual and non-sexual) and bullying are addressed in respective district policies i.e. Title IX and Bullying/Harassment.

WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS:

With this policy, the North Providence School Department adopts a Zero Tolerance for weapons in our schools. All cases will result in SRO/police involvement.

Items in the following categories are defined as **weapons**:

- Any firearm of any description, whether or not it can be fired, (e.g., pistol, blank pistol, signal pistol, starter pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, etc.).

- Any ammunition which could be used in a firearm.
- Any explosive device of any nature, including firecrackers.
- Any knife or similar bladed item dangerous to others, (e.g., Bowie, Dirck, lock blade, hunting, pen, pick, switchblade, utility, razor, etc.).
- Any martial arts device, (e.g., nunchaku, etc.).
- Any defensive weapon, (e.g., gas repellent, mace, stun gun, pepper gas, etc.).
- Any other object which school administrators could reasonably conclude is capable of inflicting bodily harm, (e.g., blackjack, chair club, knuckles, night stick, pipe, studded bracelet, etc.).

Any other item by virtue of its shape or design which give the appearance of any of the aforementioned, (e.g., air pistol, air rifle, BB gun, look alike, etc.).

ASSAULT:

Assault is defined as an act of physical violence or an aggravated threat of physical violence by a student on another student or staff member.

When considering what constitutes aggravated assault, the factors to be weighed include: age of student(s) involved, seriousness of bodily injury, the state of mind of the individual(s) involved and other factors deemed relevant to the principal or designee.

No student will possess a weapon or demonstrate an act of violence as defined herein on any school grounds, vehicles or property on which a school activity occurs before, during or after school hours.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT:

1. In all cases where weapons or aggravated assault in schools or on school grounds or at authorized school activities on/off campus, local police must be called, and all confiscated weapons are to be turned over to the police department.
2. A log of all confiscated weapons will be kept by the school administration and will be available to be reviewed by the local police. .
3. If a student is a special education student, verbally inform the police of the student's disability. Send an incident report to the Director of Student Services.

4. School Administrators will ensure all School Resource Officers (SRO) and/or any other law enforcement personnel are informed of students' cultural and language differences. Additionally, NPSD will invite SROs to participate in related district professional development opportunities.

STATEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT:

1. This policy will be implemented according to the due process provisions applicable to regular and special education students. For students with disabilities and 504 Plans, the implementation of this policy will be in accordance with approved local procedures, as well as state and federal regulations governing the suspension or removal of special education students from school programs. Serious offenses must immediately be reported to the Director of Student Services.
2. Decisions regarding the specific length of a student's suspension will be made by the appropriate authority of the School Committee. Any student suspended from school may not participate in school functions or be on school premises until formally reinstated.
3. Each school will undertake activities designed to develop a school wide acceptance of positive behavior standards and expectations.. It is expected that all students report incidents of bullying and weapons. Schools are encouraged to maintain open and consistent communication with parents/guardians and the community to support positive behavior and optimum learning.
4. In the enforcement of this policy; School Administrators may authorize, with reasonable cause a search of student lockers, personal items and vehicles as follows:
 - Students have full responsibility for the security of their lockers, and for the vehicles parked on school property. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that lockers and vehicles are locked and that the keys and combinations are not given to others. Students shall not place, keep, or maintain any article or material that is forbidden by District policy in lockers or in vehicles parked on school property.
 - School officials may search lockers, personal items or vehicles on school property if there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by District policy. Students shall be responsible for any prohibited items found in their lockers or in vehicles on school property.
 - If a vehicle subject to search is locked, the student shall be asked to unlock the vehicle. If the student refuses, the district shall contact the student's parents/guardians. If the parents/guardians also refuse to permit a search of the

vehicle, the District may turn the matter over to local law enforcement officials.

DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES:

Short-Term Suspension ten (10) days)

1. Short-term suspension shall be preceded by an informal conference between a School Administrator, student and any staff member involved. At this time the student can present relevant information. .
2. The Administrator will contact parent(s)/guardian(s) immediately to inform them of the length of the suspension and to arrange a parent conference.
3. The Administrator shall, when feasible, within 24 hours of the beginning of the short-term suspension, send a notice to the parent(s) /guardian(s) of the suspended student stating the specific act(s) for which the suspension was imposed.
4. A student will be granted reinstatement after a suspension contingent upon a conference with the Administrator and the student(s)' parent(s)/guardian(s).
5. Parents/guardians may request work that will be missed during the suspension. Students are expected to make up all assignments missed during the suspension within a reasonable time frame.

For suspensions of special education students exceeding 5 days, the Director of Student Services must be notified by the School Administrator.

Long Term Suspension (Ten (10) days or more)

Prior to suspensions or expulsion, except for such times as not feasible, as where the student's presence endangers persons or property or their disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice or hearing will follow as soon as practicable, the student will be afforded:

1. A clear, written statement of the reason for suspension or expulsion;
2. Notice of the right to prompt public or private hearing at the student's election and the right to be represented by counsel at such hearing; and
3. If a hearing is requested, the student will be given a prompt notice setting the time and place to be reasonably set, so as to allow sufficient time for preparation, without undue

delay.

4. If no hearing is requested within seven (7) days of written notice, the School Committee may act upon the request to suspend or expel at earliest convenience without further notice to parent or guardian.
5. For 504 or special education students, the Director of Special Education must be notified before this action is taken.

In the event a student has not attained the age of majority (18 years), the parent/guardian will be afforded the procedures stated in sections 1, 2, 3 & 4 above. Such notice shall be written in the parent's spoken language, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so.

The student will be afforded a hearing at which the student will have the right to:

1. Representation and participation by counsel and cross-examine witnesses and to present witnesses on behalf of the student.
2. There will be a complete and accurate (stenographic or electronic) record of the hearing including all exhibits. The record will be preserved for transmission to the Commissioner of Education, as soon as possible, in the event of an appeal.
3. The student will be provided a copy of the record without cost.
4. A written decision will be rendered, within a reasonable time, based exclusively on the record detailing the reasons and factual basis therefore.
5. The student will be promptly provided with a copy of said decision.
6. A copy of the decision, together with the record, will be promptly forwarded to the Commissioner of Education if there is an appeal.

BUS RULES AND REGULATIONS:

School Bus Transportation is considered a privilege, not a right, and is an extension of the school system. A student's misconduct at a bus stop or on a bus could lead to transportation being withdrawn, in cases of persistent behavior. parents/guardians and students are encouraged to report any dangerous or hazardous situations which they may observe at the bus stop or on the bus.

Please refer to the Transportation Policy for Bus Procedures and Code of Conduct for Pupils.

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO SCHOOL

**Parent/Guardian Receipt of NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
Discipline Policy**

Student's Name (Print) _____

School _____

I have read the North Providence School Department's Discipline Policy. I have discussed this code with my child. I shall do everything possible to support my child's education and work with my child's teachers to make this a successful school year.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Student's Signature _____

Homeroom _____ Date _____

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