

Section J: Students

JK Student Discipline

It is essential for Region 8 to maintain a safe and orderly environment which supports student learning and achievement. Effective discipline allows the school to discharge their primary responsibility of educating students and promoting good citizenship. All students are expected to conduct themselves with respect for others and in accordance with Board policies, school rules, and applicable state and federal laws. Disciplinary action may be taken against students who violate policies, rules, or laws, and/or whose conduct directly interferes with the operations, discipline or general welfare of the school.

The Region 8 Board expects the following principles to guide the development and implementation of school rules and disciplinary procedures:

- A. Discipline should emphasize positive interventions and expectations, as well as appropriate consequences for misbehavior. The focus should be on providing instructional and environmental supports designed to teach students prosocial alternatives to problem behaviors with high rates of positive feedback.
- B. Expectations for student behavior should be clear and communicated to school staff, students, and parents.
- C. Positive and restorative interventions will be used to the extent feasible. Consequences for misbehavior should be in proportion to the offense, fair and consistently enforced. Administrators shall have the discretion to tailor discipline to the facts and circumstances of the particular case.
- D. The student's parents should be actively involved in the process of preventing and resolving disciplinary problems at school.

Physical force and corporal punishment will not be used as disciplinary methods. State law provides that "a teacher or other person entrusted with the care or supervision of a person for special or limited purposes may not be held civilly liable for the use of a reasonable degree of force against the person who creates a disturbance if the teacher or other person reasonably believes it is necessary to a) control the disturbing behavior; or b) remove the person from the scene of the disturbance." Any restraint or seclusion of students shall comply with applicable regulations and Board policy.

Teachers are authorized to make and enforce rules for effective classroom management and to foster appropriate student behavior, subject to the direction and approval by the Director/designee.

School-wide rules shall be developed by the Director with appropriate input from school staff, students and parents, and shall be consistent with Region 8 policies. The Director

shall provide for the suspension or other serious disciplinary action against students in accordance with Board policies, administrative procedures and Maine law.

Students with disabilities shall be disciplined in accordance with applicable federal and state law/regulations.

Legal Reference: 17-A M.R.S. §106
20-A M.R.S. §1001(15-A); 4009,
Maine DOE Rule, Chapter 33

Cross Reference: AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
ACAA – Harassment and Sexual Harassment of Students
JICIA – Weapons, Violence and School Safety
JKAA – Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion
JKAA-R Procedures on Physical Restraint and Seclusion
JKD – Suspension of Students

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