

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP

PUPILS
5600/Page 1 of 4
Pupil Discipline and Code of Conduct

5600 PUPIL DISCIPLINE/CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education believes that the conduct of pupils in school should enable pupils to derive the greatest benefits from the educational program offered by this Board and that pupils should learn to assume responsibility for their own behavior and the consequences of their actions. Pupils are required to conform to reasonable standards of acceptable behavior; to respect the rights, person, and property of others; preserve the degree of order necessary for the conduct of the educational program; and obey those in authority.

Every pupil enrolled in this district shall observe promulgated rules and regulations and submit to the discipline imposed for infraction of those rules.

The discipline of an educationally disabled pupil must consider his or her educational disability and educational needs. Pupils with educational disabilities are subject to the same discipline policies and procedures as nondisabled pupils, unless the pupil's individualized educational program includes exemptions to those policies or procedures. Pupils with educational disabilities may be suspended for up to 10 consecutive or nonconsecutive school days without initiating action by the child study team. In the event the discipline involves suspension or expulsion that would account for more than 10 consecutive or nonconsecutive school days, the suspension or expulsion constitutes a change in placement and the child study team will conduct a reevaluation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.8.

When a pupil with an educational disability is suspended, the principal will forward, at the time of suspension, written notification and a description of the reasons for such action to the parent/legal guardian and the case manager. Such notification shall occur prior to the suspension if the action would result in the pupil being suspended for more than 10 days in the school year. When the proposed disciplinary action would



POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP

PUPILS

5600/Page 2 of 4

Pupil Discipline and Code of Conduct

result in a change in placement, the district shall also provide parents with the procedural safeguards notice in accordance with the requirements of 34 C.F.R. 300.523(a)(1) and N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3(e). The case manager will determine if the suspension results in a change in placement and document the review and the determination made. If the suspension would result in a change in placement, the child study team case manager will advise the principal that a reevaluation shall be conducted prior to the suspension and initiate a reevaluation.

If upon completion of the reevaluation, the child study team determines the pupil's behavior was primarily caused by his/her educational disability, the district may not suspend or expel the pupil. However, the child study team may propose a change in the pupil's placement.

If upon completion of the reevaluation, the child study team determines the pupil's behavior was not primarily caused by his/her educational disability, the district may suspend or expel the pupil. However, at no time shall the district Board cease educational services to that pupil.

If there is ongoing peril or physical harm to self or others or of substantial disruption to the educational process, and the suspension would result in a significant change in placement, the pupil may be temporarily suspended while the district immediately seeks emergency relief.

Code of Conduct

Our schools reinforce the important community values of dependability, honesty, participation, respect, self reliance, trust and tolerance. Every student has a right to:

- be treated with respect and courtesy;
- learn without disruption;
- attend school and each class every day;
- feel safe at their school.



POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP

PUPILS

5600/Page 3 of 4

Pupil Discipline and Code of Conduct

In addition, we endorse the right of teachers to feel safe in their classrooms and to be able to teach without disruptions. There can be no doubt that the behavior of some students prevents teachers and others in their classes from getting the full benefit of our instructional programs. Well-behaved students should not be penalized by this misbehavior.

Therefore, there is Zero Tolerance for the following actions. Anyone committing them will be suspended immediately and referred to the Superintendent for a Board of Education hearing with a recommendation for action up to and including expulsion. Based on the recommendation of the administration and the facts of the case, the Board will vote on disciplinary action.

- Distribution/Intent to distribute drugs - anywhere
- Assault of a school staff member
- Assault of a student
- Possession of a weapon
- Making a bomb threat or false fire alarm

In addition, our tolerance for repeated misbehavior has been lowered. Students who commit two of any combination of the following offenses (or sooner at the discretion of the principal) will be suspended immediately and referred to the Superintendent. Based on the recommendation of the administration and the facts of the case, the matter may be referred to the Board of Education for a hearing that can result in expulsion from the school district.

- Fighting
- Continued willful disobedience
- Theft or extortion
- Vandalism - including graffiti
- Threats and intimidation
- Possession and/or use of illegal substances, including tobacco/tobacco products and alcohol/alcohol products



POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION MOUNT OLIVE TOWNSHIP

PUPILS
5600/Page 4 of 4
Pupil Discipline and Code of Conduct

We need your help to help students improve the way they behave in school and we welcome any comments you may have. But, let there be no misunderstanding. We are intent upon enforcing a higher standard of student behavior and we will strictly enforce these higher standards.

The Superintendent shall develop and publish rules governing pupil conduct that reasonably relate to the maintenance of a school environment conducive to learning and to the protection of members of the school community; rules must not discriminate against nor demean pupils nor violate the rights of any pupil. Sanctions for the violations of rules must relate in kind and degree to the infraction and help the pupil learn to take responsibility for his or her conduct. Sanctions may not impose an academic punishment greater than that imposed by the misconduct itself. Corporal punishment may not be inflicted.

The building principal shall have the authority to assign discipline to pupils. Any pupil disciplined by an employee of this Board shall have the right to notice of the infraction with which he or she is charged and an opportunity to be heard by a school official before the pupil is disciplined.

Information regarding disciplinary actions may be entered on a pupil's record when such information may assist the work of the pupil's counselors. All information regarding discipline will be expunged from a pupil's record when the pupil is no longer enrolled in this district.

N.J.S.A. 18A:6-1; 18A:25-2; 18A: 37-1 et seq.
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.1 et seq.
20 U.S.C. 1415(k)
34 C.F.R. 300.519 to 529

Adopted: 29 June 1998
Revised: 22 March 1999
29 May 2001
12 July 2004


