

Liverpool Central School District
Code of Conduct
Plain Language Summary

INTRODUCTION

The Liverpool Central School District (the “District”) and its Board of Education (the “Board”) are committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive, and district personnel may deliver, quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, school personnel, parents, and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

Accordingly, the Liverpool Central School District has developed, and its Board of Education has adopted a *Code of Conduct for the Maintenance of Public Order on School Property and at School Functions* (the “Code of Conduct”) which governs the conduct of students, all school personnel, parents and other visitors when on school property or attending any school functions.

The following is a plain language summary of the District Code of Conduct. This summary is to be used as a guide of the basic parameters of the District Code of Conduct. The complete Code of Conduct may be accessed on the District’s website (www.liverpool.k12.ny.us), or by visiting the main office of any District school. Should there be a conflict between this plain language summary and the Code of Conduct, the provisions of the District Code of Conduct shall always prevail.

STUDENT RIGHTS

All District students have the right to:

1. The guidance of understanding teachers, counselors, and other District staff.
2. An education that offers students the opportunity for inquiry and development of their potential.
3. Constructive discipline for the development of good character, conduct and habits.
4. Security while on District property and at District functions.
5. An educational climate where the well being of students is of primary concern.
6. An educational staff that provides a positive role model for student development.
7. Guidance in choosing a career or college.
8. The opportunity to develop and express opinions, beliefs and values, provided such expression is not disruptive, slanderous or insubordinate.
9. Health and psychological services to assist in physical, mental and social development.
10. Appropriate education and/or remediation to serve special needs.
11. Consideration as an individual within the educational environment.
12. The opportunity to approach teachers and administrators with reasonable requests and questions concerning education.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All District students are accountable for their own behavior on District property and at District functions. Students have the responsibility to:

1. Be safe, and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process. Comply with the provisions of this Code while on District property and at District functions.
2. Comply with all requirements of the District’s comprehensive student attendance policy
3. Be honest with themselves and others.
4. Show respect for themselves and others.
5. Set a positive example for others.
6. Perform all assignments to the best of their ability.
7. Obey all school rules and regulations.
8. Respect public, private and school property.
9. Attend school regularly and punctually.
10. Develop appropriate behavior standards and have the courage to live by them.
11. Treat students, staff and visitors respectfully, and comply with reasonable requests of teachers and administrators.
12. Take advantage of educational opportunities available at school.
13. Learn and practice civic responsibility.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

All students are expected to be appropriately groomed and dressed while on District property and at District functions. Each building principal shall inform all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year, and of any revisions to the dress code made during the school year. The appropriateness of an individual's dress will depend, to some degree, on the circumstances and setting.

NEW YORK STATE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (DASA)

All children have the right to attend school in a safe, welcoming, and caring environment. The New York State Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) specifically ensures that no student shall be subject to harassment or bullying by employees or students on school property or at a school function, nor shall any student be subjected to discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex by school employees or students on school property or at a school function.

In addition to acts that might occur on school property and/or at a school function, DASA further prohibits an action or statement that occurs off school property which creates a risk of substantial disruption in the school environment (or could foreseeably create such a risk), and is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation, or abuse might negatively affect and/or impact a student in a school setting.

PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT

All students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner and with the proper respect for the rights and welfare of other students, district personnel, members of the school community, and for the District's facilities and equipment. Students who do not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these rules will be held accountable to the Code of Conduct and, if applicable, to local law enforcement agencies.

STUDENT SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school official authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the District Code of Conduct. Students are not entitled to any sort of "Miranda"-type warning before being questioned by school officials, nor are school officials required to contact a student's parent before questioning the student. However, school officials will tell the students why they are being questioned. In addition, the Board authorizes the superintendent, building principals, administrators, the school nurse and District security officials to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or the District Code of Conduct.

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES AND PROCEDURES

The purpose of all discipline is to teach students appropriate and constructive behaviors. Disciplinary measures shall be appropriate to the seriousness of the offense and, where applicable, to the previous discipline of the student. The following will be considered when determining the appropriate disciplinary action:

1. The student's age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances that led to the offense.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

The Board recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problematic behavior. The Board also recognizes that certain procedural protections apply to students with disabilities whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The Board is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

RANGE OF CONSEQUENCES AND PENALTIES

Penalties for violations of the Code will vary based on the factors specific to the infraction committed, such as severity, past history, age, intent and legal implications. The Liverpool Central School District divides the range of consequences for misconduct into three (3) levels of increasing seriousness, with more stringent disciplinary measures provided for each level of misconduct.

PROHIBITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is any act of physical force upon a student for the purpose of punishing that student. Corporal punishment of any student by any District employee is strictly forbidden. The District will file all complaints about the use of corporal punishment with the Commissioner of Education in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations.

VISITORS TO SCHOOLS

The Board encourages parents and other District citizens to visit the District's schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers and other staff. Since schools are a place of work and learning, certain limits must be set for such visits, including providing photo identification prior to being granted entry to the building. The building principal or his or her designee is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds.

PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The District is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. For purposes of this section of the Code of Conduct, "public" shall mean all persons when on school property or attending a school function including students, teachers and District personnel. All persons on school property or attending a school function shall conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

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